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FRIDAY JULY 1 1988

Party call for Gromyko and others to quit Politburo's old guard denounced in public

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gromyko, the Soviet Union's titular head of state, and three other long-serving officials, were urged yesterday to accept responsibility for the legacy of the Brezhnev years — and resign.

The call was made by a senior regional official of the Soviet Communist Party in a speech from the platform of the national conference in Moscow.

In a departure as unusual as anything that has happened at the conference this week, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev interrupted a speech by a party first secretary from Siberia, Mr Vladimir Melnikov, who was in the process of denouncing those responsible for the

stagnation of the Brezhnev era, and asked him to name names.

Without finishing, the first secretary from the Siberian region of Komi said that he was thinking of two members of the Politburo — Mr Andrei Gromyko and the former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, and two members of the Central Committee: Mr Viktor Afanasyev, the editor of *Pravda*, and Mr Georgy Arbatov, the head of the Institute for the Study of the USA and Canada.

In his attack, Mr Melnikov said that those who had

people and the party. He has devoted his life and activities to us. We for our part, however, have only laden him with burdens... We have worked him too hard and Comrade Gromyko today has fallen behind life. But he has done his job and his noble deeds are remembered by the people." The note said that the criticism of Mr Gromyko, made without any warning, had been inappropriate. It ended: "He has the respect and love of the people." According to Tass, the note was loudly applauded from the floor.

But the episode has provided further evidence that Mr Gromyko's star is fading. Last weekend, the policy he had implemented as Foreign Minister under Brezhnev came under attack from senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

The attacks also come at a time when the role of State President is being questioned. On Tuesday Mr Gorbachev suggested as part of his political reform programme that the post of President might in future entail responsibilities more like those of the American Presidency.

actively implemented the policy of stagnation — the code for the policies of Leonid Brezhnev — could not now, in the period of *perestroika*, remain in the central party and state organs.

Mr Gromyko and Mr Solomentsev are the two oldest members of the Politburo at 79 and 78 respectively. Mr Arbatov and Mr Afanasyev, who are delegates to the conference, are both only 65, although they rose to prominence under Brezhnev.

While Mr Afanasyev appears to have reservations about Mr Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, Mr Arbatov has given his unreserved support to the Soviet leader's programme of political reform.

After Mr Melnikov had spoken, the President of the Supreme Soviet received a carefully worded note from one of the other delegates in partial support of Mr Gromyko. It said: "Andrei Andreyevich Gromyko is a man respected among the

Navratilova goes for record



Sigh of relief: Martina Navratilova, who narrowly beat Chris Evert 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 yesterday, will be playing for a record ninth Wimbledon singles title when she meets Steffi Graf on the Centre Court tomorrow. Wimbledon, pages 41, 42. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Lawson scorns City fears of deficit rising to £12 billion

By Robin Oakley, Rodney Lord and Nicholas Wood

Mr Nigel Lawson yesterday scorned City forecasts of a trade deficit of as much as £12 billion by the end of the year. And in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher brushed aside Labour attacks, saying that the deficit was being "readily financed" by the inflow of foreign private sector capital.

She told MPs that foreign manufacturers were showing great confidence in Britain.

When Mr Neil Kinnock asked, if the confidence was so great and the inflow so ready, "why does she inflict 9.5 per cent interest rates on British industry and home buyers?" Mrs Thatcher replied crisply: "to keep down pressure on inflation."

Tory MPs cheered her and urged Mr Kinnock to try again, but he remained in his seat.

Some ministers remain nervous that the balance of payments will get worse. But other government figures are convinced that the May figures indicate a worse trend than actually exists.

Although the latest figures show the balance of payments was £1.2 billion in the red in May, the Chancellor maintained yesterday that the economy was as strong as it had been for 50 years.

Mr Lawson conceded that his Budget forecast of a £4 billion deficit would be exceeded but dismissed gloomy City prophecies as wide of the mark, pointing to the "equanimity" in the financial markets.

"I wouldn't take too much notice of teenage scribbles in the City who jump up and

down to an effort to get press attention", he said.

In an interview with *The Times* today, he discloses that the budget surplus would also be larger than he had indicated.

Yesterday at the Kensington by-election he said it was not unusual for a country to have a trade deficit at a time of rapid growth.

But the Chancellor's glowing picture of the economy was rejected by Labour. Mr Robin Cook, a leading member of the Shadow Cabinet, said there was an enormous contrast between the paper world of the City and the real economy of output and exports. He found it "stagger-

ing" that in spite of the oil surplus, Britain should have been running a deficit on visible trade for the first time since the days of Queen Elizabeth I.

"The only other countries that have had stagnant industrial output for the last 8 years are Malawi and Barbados. We produce fewer cars than Spain, less steel than Poland, fewer engineering apprentices than Switzerland.

Mr Lawson confirms in his interview that he has no ambition to become Prime Minister, but indicates that he would welcome a move to the Foreign Office.

He admits that the economy has been growing at an "unsustainably rapid rate" and reaffirms his faith in monetary policy.

WIN £106,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was shared by five people yesterday so the Portfolio Accumulator fund stands at £106,000. Prizes: page 27

TOMORROW

● Dawdling in the Dordogne — Michael Watkins at large in the heart of France

IN PART 2

Two-year ban for Mexico

Mexico has been banned from international football for two years by FIFA for cheating at a qualifying tournament for the world youth championship in Guatemala City last April, when they fielded four over-age players.

The suspension includes the 1990 World Cup and this year's Olympic Games tournament, for which they had qualified. It is the most severe ban ever imposed. Page 38

Rate pressure

A round of interest rate rises in Europe has increased the likelihood of another base rate change in Britain. Page 23

Savoy meeting

Shareholders in the luxury Savoy Hotel group are meeting today to pass judgement on allegations by Trusthouse Forte. Page 23

England out

England made a poor start to the third Test match at Old Trafford when they were bowled out for 135 by the West Indies. Page 42

TIMES FOCUS

As privatization of Britain's power industry becomes a strong possibility, a Special Report looks at the savings being made. Pages 29-32

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Lefebvre defies Pope

From Roger Boyes, Rome and Clifford Longley, Ecône, Switzerland

The Vatican promptly excommunicated Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and his four new bishops yesterday, presenting his traditionalist followers with a stark choice: return to the Catholic church or risk expulsion from the fold.

Watched by more than 5,000 of his followers, Archbishop Lefebvre defiantly consecrated four bishops for his Fraternity of Pius X. In the eyes of Rome his action constituted the sin of schism — breaking the unity of the church.

The consecrations took place in a marquee in the grounds of Mgr Lefebvre's headquarters at Ecône, Switzerland. The start of the service was delayed for 90 minutes by a long address from Mgr Lefebvre and from

his fellow consecrator Mgr Antonio de Castro Mayer, of Campos, Brazil, who had come to demonstrate his support.

The consecrations marked the final breakdown of frantic efforts by the Pope to heal the breach with Mgr Lefebvre, who repudiates most of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council, especially the one recognizing religious liberty and freedom of conscience. The irony that the ceremony was an exercise of freedom of conscience and religious liberty seemed lost on him.

Mgr Lefebvre said that the Pope had sent the Papal Nuncio, Mgr Dominique Rezaux, from Berne to Ecône the night before with a personal letter and an offer to drive him to Rome immediately to see the

Pope if he would cancel the ceremony.

Mgr Lefebvre began by saying it was, in a certain way, an historic occasion, and ended with the claim: "History will congratulate us."

The four bishops — whose orders the Vatican has to regard as valid, however reluctantly — include an Englishman, Richard Williamson, aged 48, a convert from the Church of England who is now based in Connecticut.

The others were Bernard Tissier de Mallerais, who is French, Alfonso de Galarreta, who is Spanish, and Bernard Fellay, who is Swiss. During negotiations with the Vatican to regularize the position of the Fraternity, all four names

Bank may be sued over Clowes affair

By Lawrence Lever

Lawyers for Barlow Clowes liquidators in Gibraltar are considering a multi-million pound legal action against Lloyds Bank. This follows the discovery that payments for private jet hire and personal expenses were made from a Lloyds account in Jersey that was clearly marked as a clients' account.

Millions of pounds of investors' money in Barlow Clowes, the crashed investment group, was paid into the account. The investors thought it would be invested in government securities.

However it has emerged that millions of pounds was diverted from the account. Irregular payments have been discovered by the liquidators for private jets and personal expenditure by the directors of Barlow Clowes.

A cheque for £25,400 made in payment for the hire of private jets was drawn on a Barlow Clowes investors' account from Lloyds Bank in Jersey.

Cork Gully, joint liquidator for Barlow Clowes International, has a copy of the cheque, and details of other irregular payments.

The *Times* has also seen a copy of the cheque, clearly marked "Barlow Clowes & Partners SA - clients' call account" and is payable to a private jet company.

A Lloyds spokesman said the bank was co-operating with the BCI liquidators. Midland Bank has also come under scrutiny since one of its banks in Jersey also handled money belonging to investors in BCI.

At least £138 million was invested in BCI. Apart from any legal action by the liquidators, the investors may also have legal grounds for action against the bank.

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Equal pay ruling CBI fears women's claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The right of more than 11 million working women to claim equal pay with men doing different jobs won unanimous backing from the House of Lords yesterday in a case brought by five women warehouse workers.

The ruling is the first endorsement by the highest court of the land of the right to bring claims of "equal pay for work of equal value" under the sex equality laws. It was hailed as an "historic victory" by trade unionists and by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

But the Confederation of British Industry warned that the ruling would inflate wages and "have damaging consequences for the competitiveness of British industry". It intends to press the Government for a change in the law.

The case was brought by Mrs Rene Pickstone and four colleagues, who with 800 other women warehouse workers

are employed at Freemans, the mail order firm, at its Peterborough base.

The women, who assemble, check and dispatch the orders, are trying to bring an equal pay claim with male staff who unload and check the goods from the vans. The men earn a basic weekly wage of £81.88, which is £4.22 more than the women. The women say their work is equal in terms of effort, skill and decision-making to the men.

But Freemans has opposed their right to bring the claim, arguing that as long as a man is doing the same work — in this case six men were doing the same work as the women and now some 50 are — they cannot bring a claim.

In his judgement Lord Keith of Kinkel said that if employers were able to evade the equal pay laws by "employing one token man on the same work as a group of potential women claimants" they were deliberately paid less than the men doing work of equal value, it would mean that the United Kingdom had "failed again" in its obligations to comply with EEC law.

"It is plain that Parliament cannot possibly have intended such a failure."

Law report, page 33



Solar flare leaves pigeon fanciers in a flap

By Boris Johnson

Pigeon owners were yesterday scanning the skies for hundreds of missing birds. It was sheer bad luck that one of the greatest annual international pigeon racing days, with more than 40,000 birds in flight, should have coincided with the largest solar flare for four years.

At 5.20 am on Friday 3,000 pigeons were released from the town of Bourges in the south of France, under the auspices of the Up North Combine, the largest pigeon-fancying group in Britain, and expected to arrive at their homes in the north of England the following day.

Almost 93 million miles away a vast jet of gas leapt from the surface of the sun for 91 minutes, causing

electromagnetic disturbances in the earth's atmosphere.

As hundreds of owners waited at their pigeon roosts on Saturday and Sunday, it became clear that something had gone wrong. "They just didn't come home," said Mr Derek Towers, the secretary and manager of the Up North Combine. "It was a total disaster. The same thing happened to the Germans, the Dutch and the Belgians, who were sending them from Barcelona, and they did not have a Channel to cross."

At 4.30 am the Meteorological Office had issued a forecast indicating that conditions were almost perfect for pigeon racing. There were mild head-winds, but nothing to suggest the massive no-show that occurred. By

the time Mr Towers closed the race on Sunday only 283 of a total of about 5,000 British birds had completed the distance from three starting-points in the south of France.

"Nobody really knows how pigeons navigate, but the only explanation I can think of is this solar flare I read about," he said.

The winning bird, owned by F and J Gray of Newbiggin, Northumberland, travelled the 580 miles by 8.30 am on Saturday, to win a gold trophy and an unspecified amount of prize money. But hundreds of other racing pigeons, worth an average of £20, and sometimes as much as £40,000, were still missing.

According to Mr Chris Mead, of the British Trust of Ornithology, pigeons

orientate themselves by a variety of means. "They use polarised light, they use smell, and there is also undoubtedly scientific evidence that they orient themselves through the earth's magnetic field.

"The lines of the earth's magnetic field point into the earth, and the pigeons find the acute angle and follow it. But if the magnetic lines of force are affected by a solar flare, the pigeons' steering may be messed up."

Once pigeons were displaced laterally because of an error near the outset, they found it hard to get back on course. "They flap around for ages, or get eaten, or drop in the water. Most of the pigeons in Trafalgar Square were originally racing pigeons who got lost," he said.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

School guideline fuels cash fear

New guidelines on setting up and running schools that opt out of local authority control will fuel fears that schools are to be encouraged to do so by promises of more cash than they already receive.

The guidelines, issued by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, as a draft circular for parents, local authorities and schools, make it clear that he will be the arbiter of how much a school may receive to balance the loss of services provided formerly by the local authority.

A new government-backed trust set up to help schools to apply for grant-maintained status is drawing up a confidential list of likely candidates by canvassing local Tory politicians. The Grant-Maintained Schools Trust, chaired by Mr Steve Norris, a former Conservative MP, has written to well informed local figures asking for the names of schools that might consider opting out.

Fare share for guards

British Rail guards are to be paid a commission of 2 per cent of any fares they collect from fare dodgers. British Rail hopes that the scheme will help to cut its losses from non-payment of fares, estimated at between £30 million and £40 million a year. About £20 million of that is accounted for by fare-dodging on the commuter services of Network SouthEast. The scheme will come into effect on October 3.

Haughey in hospital

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, was taken to hospital yesterday morning shortly before he was due in the Dail to make a statement on the economy and on Anglo-Irish relations. Mr Haughey is suffering from a kidney stone. The Mater private hospital said the condition was "painful but not dangerous" and Mr Haughey is expected back at work on Monday. His statement, which dealt largely with the success of the economy, reiterated his commitment to the Anglo-Irish agreement and determination to stamp out terrorism, was read to the Dail for him.

Fabergé court ruling

Insurers who paid for the loss of a collection of Fabergé animal figures from Cottesbrooke Hall, near Northampton, seven years ago, have been allowed to claim back pieces from the group, which were traced by police. The London jeweller, Wartski, which bought the pieces legitimately, agreed in the High Court yesterday to hand over the figures of a hen, a chimpanzee, and a set of piglets, and to pay £17,710 to the underwriters in respect of a bloodhound, which it had also bought legitimately.

NHS pioneer's lottery

The health authority chosen by Aneurin Bevan to launch the National Health Service 40 years ago is about to introduce the country's first legal NHS lottery. A hundred thousand tickets at 50p each go on sale throughout Trafford, South Manchester, next week.

Conditions at centre are appalling, says Chief Inspector of Prisons Urgent action urged at 'squalid' Risley

By Peter Evans

Conditions at Risley Remand Centre near Warrington, Chester, are "barbarous and squalid", Judge Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday.

He said the centre, dubbed "Grisly Risley", was a poorly designed institution where many inmates were kept in "appalling and totally unacceptable" conditions.

In a Home Office report, Judge Tumim said the centre should be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Male inmates remanded there were for the large part "forgotten people", apart from the times they were allowed to see relatives and lawyers, or were processed to appear in court.

The report said urgent action should be taken to prevent more suicides at Risley, where six people on remand died within a year. While no prison establishment could guar-

antee suicide prevention, every precaution should be taken.

Judge Tumim said three factors might have contributed to depression and suicide at Risley — an increase in mentally ill inmates; squalid physical conditions; and "shocking disregard" of staff guidelines on the recognition of suicidal tendencies.

The report also expressed concern about lack of staff continuity, which seriously impaired relations with inmates, and Risley's large catchment area.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said in a statement yesterday that steps to prevent suicide were being given high priority.

All new inmates at Risley were being assessed for suicidal tendencies on the day they arrived at the centre. Staff were being trained in suicide prevention and a committee had been formed to devise precautionary strategies.

Risley was opened in 1964, conceived as a short-term centre where people would be held for a few weeks for medical reports. However, Britain's over-stretched prison system has ensured that stays of eight or nine months at the centre are now not unusual.

Risley receives prisoners on remand from courts throughout the North of England and parts of the Midlands. Some have been convicted and await probation and medical reports before sentence. Most, however, are untried.

Last year, 31,904 people passed through the centre, 4,971 of them women, housed in their own wing. Initial impressions on walking through centre's tall double gates are deceptive. Neat single and double-storey buildings are fringed by well-kept grass verges with borders of flowers.

However, the buildings have long proved inadequate, with thousands

of pounds spent just to maintain their current condition.

About half the inmates are consigned to 9ft-square rooms, shared between two people, where they may spend up to 23 hours a day.

The only lavatory facilities in the cells are plastic containers which inmates "slop out" in the mornings. Rather than endure the stench of their own urine all night, some prisoners simply relieve themselves out of their cell windows.

The cells are furnished with bunk beds, a simple table and two chairs. In the male wings — some of which badly require renovation — the walls are a mass of obscene graffiti.

Prisoners are entitled to daily exercise and visits, although the distances involved often make visiting impossible for relatives.

Inmates have association sessions on average once a week, and are provided with a library service and limited education facilities. They

can also volunteer for work, women prisoners receiving £1.55 a week for tasks such as assembling plugs.

Staff concede that drugs are sometimes smuggled in, but say such problems are not as great as reports suggest.

In the longer term, Risley is intended to become a local prison.

Freeing accommodation by removing most of the inmates aged under 21 is the first step in a £2.5 million programme of improvements to B and C wings, where most male remands are held, and refurbishment is expected to be completed by autumn next year.

Longer-term redevelopment will begin in June next year, according to the Home Office. It will take six years to complete, at a cost of £50 million.

HM Remand Centre Risley. Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (Home Office, London, £1.50).

Ridley abandons plan for phasing in poll tax

By Sheila Guna, Political Staff

The community charge will be introduced in the whole of England and Wales on April 1, 1990. The Government yesterday dropped plans for phasing in the reforms in London.

The announcement signalled a remarkable second U-turn by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, and demonstrated his confidence that he has won the battle for controlling high-spending left-wing councils in the capital.

The announcement came as the Government suffered its first defeat on its poll tax proposals when The House of Lords passed an amendment allowing the Secretary of State to reduce the amount of community charge to be paid

by some student nurses. They will eventually become exempt from the charge.

The decision not to phase in the community charge was made in response to lower spending by many councils, together with the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority.

Originally, the Government planned to charge London residents £100 a year each together with a proportion of their rates over four years from 1990.

Mr Ridley, who campaigned among his colleagues for a rapid switch from rates to poll tax, persuaded a Cabinet committee last November to drop plans for a transitional period of a dual running of the

two systems except for high spending areas of London. He later went a step further by yielding to pleas for an instant switch from rates to poll tax from four authorities: Westminster, Wandsworth, Kensington and Chelsea and Waltham Forest.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, said: "It will not be possible for local authorities to hide behind the confusion in people's minds caused by paying two different sets of bills."

"The consequences of their actions for the community charge payer will be absolutely clear-cut." He hopes the single step change will be a vote-winner for the Conservatives. *Parliament, page 12*

Triumph on equal pay



Smiles of victory yesterday from Mrs Rene Pickstone, centre, and two colleagues, Elaine Fyfe, left, and Rita Roberts, after the House of Lords ruled that women were entitled to the same pay as men for different work of equal value (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Cruise liner plan

Tikkoo may buy Ulster yard

By Philip Webster and Tim Jones

Mr Ravi Tikkoo, the Indian shipping magnate, has called in a merchant bank to determine whether he will buy the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast as part of a deal which would enable him to build a huge cruise liner provisionally called the Ultimate Dream.

Last night, a spokesman for Mr Tikkoo confirmed that the Northern Ireland Office had approached him about the possibility of taking over the loss-making yard.

A statement issued on his behalf said: "The proposition requires a careful and detailed analysis and is being considered on that basis. Tikkoo Cruise Line have engaged Hambros Bank to advise them in this respect."

His plan to build the £260 million cruise liner is the only firm prospect of a future order at the yard, which employs 3,900 workers, officials confirmed. Yesterday,

More than 12,000 workers employed on constructing Britain's Trident nuclear submarines at the VSEL yard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, were told last night that jobs and orders worth millions of pounds would be lost unless they abandoned their strike over the right to take holidays when they wish. More than seven hours of talks between management and representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions failed to resolve the issue.

the board of Harland and Wolff said it recognized that privatization could offer the best long-term future for the company, its employees and the other companies which depend on it for vital work.

Mr T. J. Parker, chairman and chief executive of Harland and Wolff, said: "However, the firm proviso must be that it is

established on a sound basis from the outset — in order that it should have the best opportunity for a viable long-term future."

It is being suggested that the Government will support Mr Tikkoo's appeal for aid to build the liner, thought to be up to £100 million, in return for his buying the yard.

Mr Peter Viggers, the Northern Ireland industry minister, ended doubts over Mr Tikkoo's interest when he said in the Commons that Tikkoo Cruise Line had come forward expressing an interest in acquiring the yard.

Mr Viggers told MPs: "The Government will consider this and any proposals from any other parties which might lead to the privatization of the company."

Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, urged Mr Viggers to ensure job security for the workforce in any privatization.

Owen urges European role

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The City of London's position as one of the world's leading financial centres will be jeopardized if Britain stands aside from the setting up of a European central bank, Dr David Owen declared yesterday.

The SDP leader issued his warning as he was campaigning in the Kensington by-election where his party is fighting for survival in a battle that principally involves its centre ground rival, the Social

and Liberal Democrats. It followed on from his clash with the Prime Minister last week when Mrs Margaret Thatcher told him there was no point in such a bank because a united states of Europe was not on the cards.

Yesterday, Dr Owen said: "Eventually, a European central bank will come and the rightful place of such a bank is London. It would be deeply damaging to the dominant position of London if a Euro-

pean central bank was to be sited either in Frankfurt, Paris or Brussels."

He said that Mrs Thatcher had a "vital interest" to protect in the City of London General Election 1987: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C) 14,818; Ben Bousquet (Lab) 10,371; William Goodhart (SDP) 5,379; R F Shorter (Green) 528; L Carrick (Humanist) 65; M Hughes (Ind) 30. Majority 4,447. Electorate 48,212.

Kasparov facing two crucial games

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

In the World Chess Cup at Belfort, France, Gary Kasparov, the world champion, faces his greatest test. He plays in consecutive rounds with the Black pieces against Anatoly Katkov and Britain's Nigel Short in rounds 13 and 14 of this 15-round event.

After 12 rounds Kasparov has built up a dominating lead, but he must still overcome the hurdle of consecutive Black games against two of his most dangerous rivals if he is to triumph.

Results in round 12: (White players named first)

Kasparov beat Rhys Williams (USSR) 94; Shorter drew with Anderson; Nominadze drew with Likhovitskiy; 1858-drew with Hjartarson; Hubner drew with Spangis; Timman lost to Spangis.

Scores after 12 rounds: Kasparov (USSR) 94; Keenev (USSR) 88; Shorter (GB) 87; Hubner (West Germany) 86; Spangis (USSR) 85; Spangis (France) 7; Rhys Williams (C) 6; Spangis (Sweden) 6; Spangis (Sweden) 6; Nominadze (USSR) 5; Bousquet (USSR) 4; Carrick (Humanist) 3; Hughes (Ind) 3. Majority 4,447. Electorate 48,212.

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Families protest to MP over 'injustice' of child abuse cases

By Ian Smith

A dossier on "the forgotten children" in Leeds diagnosed as victims of sexual abuse will be handed to the Government next week.

Parents Against Injustice (Pain), which represents 25 families and 64 children, yesterday sent Mr Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, 33 disturbing case histories.

The group says the cases exemplify the "disgraceful and shoddy treatment" of parents and children by doctors and social workers in Leeds. Mr Bell will study the dossier with other cases from throughout the country.

He will ask Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to order a judicial review of each case if the Cleveland inquiry report from Lord Justice Butler-Stross questions the reliability of the contentious reflex anal dilatation technique.

Each diagnosis of sexual abuse was allegedly based on that technique and all except one occurred before the Cleveland crisis. The children were aged between seven months and 15 years.

Dr Jane Wynne made seven diagnoses of sexual abuse and a further five were reached by Dr Christopher Hobbs. Their methods were employed by two paediatricians at Middlesbrough General Hospital.

Mrs Sue Amphlett, director of Pain and a nurse whose two

daughters, now aged eight and six, were once placed on an "at risk" register, says the appalling plight of families in Leeds has been ignored because they lie in the shadow of the Cleveland investigation.

The group is pressing for a re-evaluation of the system used to protect children suspected of being at risk as well as seeking judicial reviews.

The parents want second opinions in every case where abuse is diagnosed and video films taken of every disclosure interview with the child.

Parents should be kept informed at every stage and given the opportunity to attend crucial case conferences at which the future of their children is determined.

The group says parents are currently not only refused access to any part of case conferences but often not even told they are taking place.

Social services staff insist that children be allowed to give personal families details at case conferences in cases where the child is considered to be of a responsible age.

Mrs Amphlett said: "The fate of entire families rests in the hands of a few individuals. That must change at once. Hearings should be multi-disciplinary attended by second opinions from doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and those families affected.

"Instead, a handful of people rule supreme, whatever they say is accepted without question. As none of us is infallible that should never be allowed to happen."

According to the Pain report, eight of the children were attending clinics or treatment units because of medical problems when they were diagnosed as abuse victims.

In five families siblings of those diagnosed as sexually abused were subsequently examined with parental consent, in those cases seven supposedly demonstrated reflex anal dilatation, and therefore abuse, while a further four displayed no signs of maltreatment. Nonetheless, all siblings were taken into care.

In 13 out of 14 families being studied by the group, none of the children at any stage substantiated allegations of sexual abuse. In the other case a child is said to have spoken of parental sexual interference while in social services care though no transcripts or tape of the disclosure interview is available.

However, of the 33 youngsters evaluated, 14 were said to be in moral danger because another child in the family had allegedly been abused. Subsequently, no signs of abuse had been found or any allegations of impropriety made by the children.

Stately home turns open house



Lord and Lady Carnarvon with their grandson Jackie outside Highclere Castle yesterday aboard the Red Bug Backboard, an early American motorized vehicle that has been with the family since 1929 (Photograph: Stephen Markeson).

By Robia Young

From Sunday the public will be able to explore the rooms of Highclere Castle, Hampshire, where earlier this year Lord Carnarvon, the grandson of the man who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, unearthed a hoard of Egyptian antiquities which had lain forgotten for more than 60 years.

The Egyptian government had demanded the return of the treasure, threatening legal action, but yesterday Lord Carnarvon said: "We have heard no more since they realized that the objects did

not come from the tomb of Tutankhamun itself.

"There was a new man at the ministry of culture and a new curator at the Cairo museum who were anxious to make their mark and take a fundamentalist attitude, but it seems to have gone quiet."

So the treasure becomes the principal attraction at the earl's stately home, on which he has spent £200,000 in making it ready for the admission of the public.

The relics came to light while Lord Carnarvon and his family were preparing to open the house to the public as part of

the settlement of death duties agreed after the death of the 6th Earl last year.

Lord Carnarvon had asked his retired butler, Mr Robert Taylor, whether they had seen everything, but Mr Taylor replied: "Except for the Egyptian stuff", and then led the earl to two cupboards hidden between the blocked-up doorways between the drawing and smoking rooms. They were full of antiquities snuffed in cigarette boxes.

More artefacts were found in the room which the 6th Earl had used as a photographic dark room.

Howard Carter, the archaeologist who was the fifth Lord Carnarvon's partner in excavating Tutankhamun's tomb, described the objects, which all derive from the two men's earlier excavations, as "a few unimportant antiquities", when he packed the Carnarvon collection off to the Bank of England for eventual sale to the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

Now they are regarded as historically priceless and the castle's music room has had its French furniture decanted into the drawing room to make way for their exhibition.

Consultant cheated NHS

By Michael Horswell

A gynaecologist who cheated the health service by booking a woman into a NHS hospital without disclosing she was his private patient was sent to prison for 15 months yesterday.

Peter Firth, aged 54, a £115,000 a year consultant who is said to have pioneered life-saving techniques, was told by the judge that prison was the only sentence.

Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, the Recorder at Worthing Crown Court, told him: "You behaved in such a way as to destroy that essential basis of trust between doctor and patient and doctor and health authority."

The jury found him guilty of sending a woman to a health service hospital for treatment for 11 and five days on two occasions without revealing she was his private

patient. It meant a loss to the authority of £1,579. Firth, father of four, of Hursford Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, denied nine specimen charges of deception and attempted deception. The jury found him guilty on four charges and cleared him on five others.

The Recorder told him: "It is a tragedy to see you standing there. But the jury have found you to have been dishonest."

She said he had been convicted "on representative counts. From these frauds I believe that you increased your income. You were a consultant and the head of your department. It is essential that persons of that status should be treated not to deceive in order to make dishonest financial gains for themselves or to save their patients money."

Firth, a consultant at Cuckfield and Haywards Heath Hospitals in Sussex, was cleared of doubling his fees by charging his private patients and also billing the health service. He was also cleared of charging fees for visiting two women patients who were already dead.

Firth told the jury he had accidentally mixed up his private and NHS patients. He had relied on his memory and had not deliberately cheated.

Mr John Rogers QC, for the defence, said: "He has suffered dreadful stigma, and his career is now finished". He would be considering an appeal.

Firth was also ordered to pay £10,000, part of the £24,000 prosecution costs, and £1,579 compensation to Mid Downs Health Authority, West Sussex.

Legionella link to building-site dust

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

An expert in construction science said yesterday that there was evidence that outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease is linked to dust from building sites.

Professor Patrick O'Sullivan, of the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, said that research had shown that 90 per cent of the outbreaks of the disease in Britain has occurred where the air-conditioning systems of the buildings are in close proximity to a building site. He said that dust has been

found to provide a source of nutrient for the legionella bacteria which build up the air-conditioning systems. It also has the power to neutralize common sterilizing agents used to clean the air-cooling plant of buildings.

The warning comes after the outbreak of the disease at the BBC's Broadcasting House in central London, in which two men died and dozens detained in hospital. The offices are surrounded on three sides by building sites.

Professor O'Sullivan, who is involved in the inquiry into the BBC outbreak, called for guidelines to be introduced to

warn the owners of offices of the effects of building sites near by. "There should be a mechanism which building work starts in an area of high population density to tell people to take extra precautions". The Health and Safety Executive should enforce such guidelines to protect office workers, he said.

The Department of Health and Social Security is drawing up new guidelines for building maintenance engineers, requiring weekly inspections of air conditioning systems for hospitals. The guide is expected to be published later this month.

Killer given life sentence

A skinhead who murdered a man for eight cigarettes was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court yesterday, with the recommendation that he serve at least 15 years.

Anthony "Boxer" Carroll, aged 24, of Kentish Town, north London, stabbed a waiter, Mr Abadus Sattar, aged 56, to death on May 24 last year as he was walking home in Hampstead, north-west London.

Union pays damages for strike

The first teaching union to be sued by an education authority for taking illegal industrial action, yesterday agreed a substantial out-of-court settlement for damages plus costs.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers and the Hereford and Worcester County Council issued a joint statement saying that they hoped to achieve a new working relationship together based on "mutual respect and understanding".

The council originally took the union to the High Court in February this year claiming £48,000 damages in respect of a half-day strike in November 1986. Neither side would discuss details of the final settlement yesterday, but it is understood to be in the regions of £40,000 plus costs.

WPC driver is cleared

A woman police constable was yesterday cleared of causing death by dangerous driving. WPC Jacqueline Johnston, aged 30, of Kempston, Bedfordshire, was said to have caused an approaching car to lose control and hit another, killing the driver. Mr Mark Jones, the approaching driver, was cleared of a similar charge at St Albans Crown Court.



Michael Parkinson: fulfilling pact.

Heysel 26 may ignore trial

By David Nicholson-Lord

A fresh dispute is looming between Britain and Belgium over the 26 Liverpool football supporters facing manslaughter charges over the Heysel stadium disaster.

It follows legal advice that they should not travel to Brussels to stand trial in October.

Sir Harry Livermore, the Liverpool solicitor who represents 15 of the defendants, has called a meeting today at which the fans will be asked to indicate whether they intend to return to answer their bail. Some have said they will not.

British and Belgian lawyers representing the 26 have claimed that the Belgian Ministry of Justice has put impossible obstacles in the way of a

proper trial. Sir Harry said yesterday that he had received "quite categorical" advice from one Belgian legal expert that the supporters should not turn up for their trial, on the ground that if they were convicted in their absence they could not be extradited, and conflicting advice from counsel in Britain who insisted that they should.

He added: "I am not going to advise them not to attend. I can't do that. I am going to tell them what might happen if they don't attend."

Mr Rex Makin, who represents four defendants, said: "You can't tell clients not to go but you don't have to tell them to go. It may well be that if my clients tell me they are

not going back to Belgium I would be remarkably deaf when it was said". According to the Home Office, there would be no bar to Belgium submitting a second extradition request for any defendants convicted in their absence.

The public prosecutor's office in Brussels said yesterday it was "too premature to react". However, it is understood that another round of extradition proceedings would be unlikely.

Failure of the supporters to turn up would prove a severe embarrassment to Mrs Thatcher. Immediately after the Heysel disaster in 1985, the Prime Minister said justice must be done.

Car owners prefer Japanese

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

British cars failed to rank among the top 15 makes in the first authoritative survey of customer satisfaction among new car owners in Europe.

Japanese makes, headed by Mazda and Toyota, accounted for four of the five top cars with Mercedes in third place. Among the 15 marques considered better than average only Japanese, German and Belgian cars featured. British, French and Italian cars were all judged below average when assessed over 18 months for reliability and repair, customer service, quality of the garage and the way warranty claims were dealt with.

The survey was conducted by the Californian marketing consultants J D Power Associates, whose annual US survey has become an accepted industry standard for customer satisfaction research.

The survey was carried out in Belgium which, by virtue of having no dominant domestic car manufacturer and no import restrictions, is seen as a microcosm of the European car market.

Japanese manufacturers dominated each aspect of customer satisfaction. For reliability and repair they were 35 per cent ahead of the European car makers and

their customer service was rated 30 per cent better.

The report claims: "A Mazda owner is twice as likely as a Mercedes owner to receive a follow-up call from the dealer after a service visit."

Rover and Porsche are rated highly for handling warranty problems when faults occur within the first 12 months of ownership yet the report says both makes had a high incidence of warranty claims.

The report concludes that there are still major differences in the manufacturing processes of Japanese and European makes.

Town pays tribute to Harty

A Lancashire town said farewell yesterday to Russell Harty, one of its favourite sons, when hundreds of inhabitants of Blackburn joined celebrities at a memorial service in the cathedral where the television personality was once a server.

As the crowds gathered outside before the start of the service, Mr Harty's friend and fellow presenter, Michael Parkinson, slipped in through a side door avoiding the crush and waving cameras.

Mr Parkinson gave the eulogy, thereby fulfilling a pact the two had once made in jest after he and Mr Harty

attended a memorial service for Grace Fields.

Mr Parkinson described how Mr Harty had joked that he would do his "in job" if he would say, "Mr Harty had replied: "You can tell them about Grace Jones and I will talk about the Emu".

Mr Parkinson said: "He was convinced he would be remembered as the Grace Jones man."

pupils from his former school, Queen Elizabeth II. "He never neglected the qualities of someone brought up in a north country background. He celebrated his roots", Mr Parkinson said.

"He showed you could take a lad out of Blackburn but you cannot take Blackburn out of the man. I knew him 16 or 17 years and it was not enough. If I knew him 60 years I would not have known him long enough, all his friends feel like that."

"He was a very remarkable man."

Mr Philip Johnson, the headmaster at Mr Harty's former school, read the lesson.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Boost for charity

Yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 was shared between five winners and £1,600 of the pool will be donated to charity.

Mr Martin Smith, a partner in Stevens, Hewlett and Perkins, a firm of patent agents in Chancery Lane, central London, had two valid claims, one for himself and one for his company. He is giving the winnings in a cancer appeal at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading.

Mr Dennis Anderson, another winner, is a guidance counsellor at London Central High School in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Mrs Mary Lewis, of Washle Drive, Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire, and Mr Robert Watkins, of Lincoln Avenue, Wimbledon, south-west London, also won £800.

Ramblers call for controls on pesticides

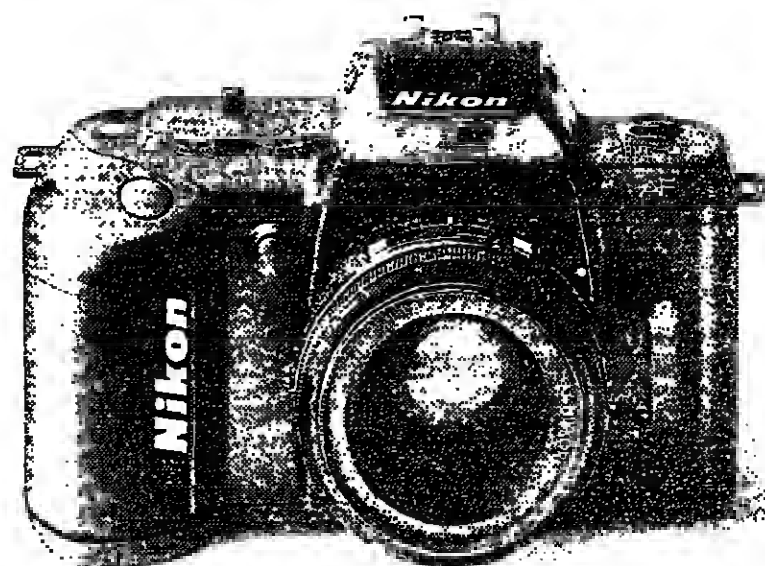
By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

The Government should draw up a list of chemicals guaranteed to be harmless to human health and ban the spraying of all others near footpaths and public open spaces, the Ramblers' Association said yesterday.

Lord Melchett, the association's president, said many pesticides were harmful to livestock and farmers were advised to keep animals away for up to two weeks. Yet no one in government seemed to have noticed that people also walked across fields.

Sir Richard Body, former chairman of the Commons Agriculture Committee, said tests involving rats did not measure the long-term effects of pesticides.

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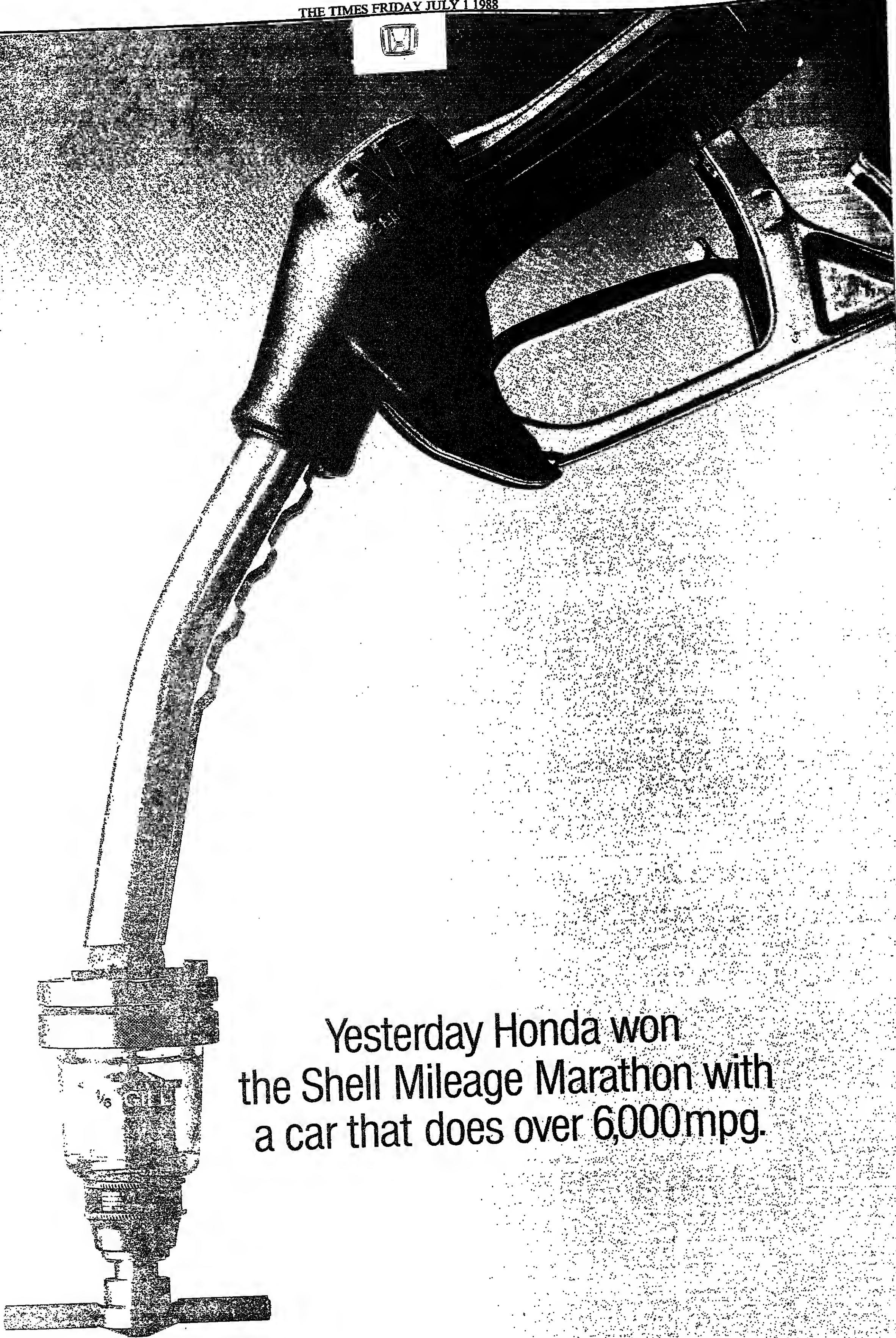


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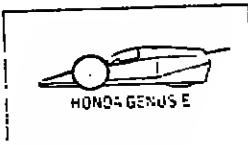
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Gatwick is ignoring night flight quotas to clear congestion

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Up to 15 passenger jets are being granted emergency permission to fly into Gatwick airport each night in an attempt to prevent thousands of holidaymakers from being diverted to airports many miles away from the cars they left in the long-term car park.

Airport officials are being forced to ignore the Government's night flight limit because of a big increase in delays caused by air traffic control congestion throughout Europe. Airlines and MPs are pressing Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, to relax the limits.

At a confidential emergency meeting between airlines and MPs with aviation interests in London this week, airlines said that in the peak months of July, August and September, tens of thousands of Gatwick passengers could find themselves landing at Stansted, Luton or Birmingham, where the noise restrictions are less stringent.

Now Mr Robert McCrindle, chairman of the all-party aviation committee, has written to Mr Channon urging "emergency action", but the Government produced its policy

White Paper on night flights at Gatwick only in February and ministers are reluctant to make changes so soon.

In the meantime, airlines have found a loophole in the regulations which allow them to fly in at night provided they can prove "widespread or sustained disruption outside their control". Between 10 and 15 flights a night are now regularly landing at Gatwick between 11.30pm and 6 am. Because they are using modern quiet jets there has been no increase in complaints.

In February the Government announced that it would allow a maximum of 4,430 night movements this summer which would be shared among all airlines. Those which breached their "quota" would lose daytime movements, which would be removed as punishment.

"The number of people inconvenienced by the ban on night movements at Gatwick massively outweighs the number who might be disturbed locally by airport noise", one airline chief said. "We are now able unofficially to operate the 'rubber clock' with the tacit agreement of the airport

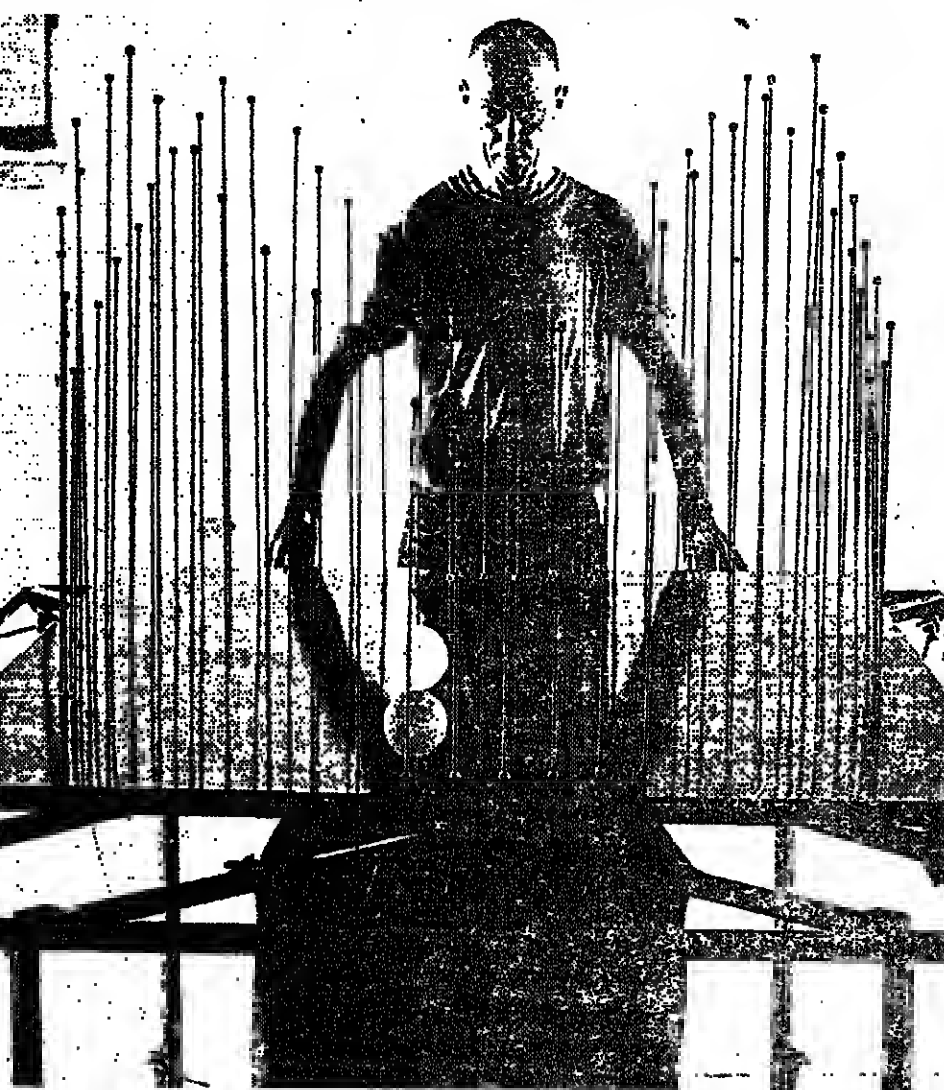
authorities. But this cannot go on and we desperately need the Government to acknowledge the situation and allow us to fly in at night when our aircraft are subjected to the kind of delays which now routinely occur."

In his letter to Mr Channon, Mr McCrindle says: "The increased use of Gatwick by charter flights, the introduction of flow control and the recent announcement of modified night flying restrictions are all converging to create a problem on which emergency action is required."

The Air Transport Users Committee is pressing for new jets, quieter than many propeller aircraft which can use the airport throughout the night, to be allowed to fly in unrestricted.

"Delays to holiday flights, especially at weekends have become the serious problem that many expected", Mr John Cox, the committee's chairman, said. "The use of Gatwick, our busiest holiday airport, is still drastically restricted at night. The suffering forced on users diverted in the small hours to other airports is intolerable."

Musical pinball wizard



Mr David Sawyer, aged 46, from Exeter, poised to perform on his "pinball composer", made from a pinball machine, in preparation for Sounds Unusual, a week-long festival of musical eccentricity beginning tomorrow at the South Bank in London (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

High price of credit

Firms charging 4,000% interest

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Some lenders are charging 4,000 per cent interest annually on unsecured loans to financially unsophisticated, poor members of the community, a Birmingham barrister said yesterday.

Licensed lenders of weekly collectable credit operate in a market peopled by the least well-educated consumers and charge an average annual percentage rate of 290 to 300 per cent, Miss Anne Andrews, development officer at the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre, said.

She told trading standards officers at their annual conference in Scarborough that in Birmingham some companies are charging 425 per cent, 1,020 per cent and, in one case, more than 4,000 per cent on an annual basis.

"To a middle-income consumer of credit with a bank loan at 19 per cent annual percentage rate this must look like extortionate credit but the Consumer Credit Act does not provide the legal machinery to deal with this sort of problem.

"In any event, the majority of borrowers are unaware of the fact that they do have rights under the Act to reopen extortionate credit bargains", she told the officers.

who lend to middle and low income groups have adopted American collection techniques and systemized their harassment methods, Miss Andrews said.

They telephoned borrowers at work and home several times a day to ask for payment; visited at unsocial hours demanding payment on a daily basis; used aggressive male collectors to intimidate borrowers and advised clients to take out secured loans with the same company to clear existing debts.

Trading standards officers and the police were reluctant to help in dealing with harassment. "It is also possible to criticize the Office of Fair Trading for dragging its feet in disciplinary action through licensing when such abuses have been reported", Miss Andrews said.

Loan sharking, or unlicensed money lending, was increasing with cuts in social security payments.

At the reputable end of the market some consumers still did not understand the expression "secured loan", thinking that it meant the borrower was secure, she said. UK consumers were remarkably bad in sorting out the good from the bad credit deal.

Methodists reject homosexuals ban

By Patrick O'Hanlon

The Methodist Conference unanimously rejected a motion yesterday that "practising homosexuals shall not be received into full connection or ordained into our ministry".

In a brief and emotional debate, the conference voted instead to set up a commission to study the issue of homosexual clergy and report back in two years.

The Rev Brian Beck, conference secretary, said afterwards: "To take a decision now would have us rushing in to a position that we would regret. There are those who are ready to take a decision now but that would force one opinion on the rest."

Mr Beck, in proposing the motion to set up the commission, reminded conference that Aids was transmitted heterosexually as well as homosexually. "It has added a new dimension to promiscuity but it has not introduced a new dimension of morality", he said at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

He cautioned against quoting biblical texts out of context. "We complain enough when the press reports us loosely and out of context. We mustn't do that to the Bible."

The 25-strong commission was broad and comprehensive in its viewpoint, orientation and expertise, he said.

The Rev Dr John Harrod of Manchester said: "Homosexuals have been around for a long time. They have been in the church for a long time. They are already in our ordained ministry."

The church would be driven to spying on and interrogating homosexuals, he said. "Let us disappoint the tabloids and not get into a stew."

The Rev Barrie Cooke, of Doncaster, called for clear guidance. "Many Methodists are bewildered", he said.

"There is widespread distress and sadness among us. I hope we will listen to the angry voices of the homosexual lobby that hide a hurt that needs to be healed, and of the deep and profound feelings of the Methodist people."

Dr Peter Hawker, of north-east London, said there were many causes of homosexuality. "Some are learnt in our upbringing and there is strong evidence that it is congenital. If one identical twin is homosexual there is a very high likelihood that the other will also be", he said.

Weekend food prices

Chicken dearer after drought affects US

The drought in the wheat and soya-growing areas of America will affect Britain. The Chicken Information Service has issued a warning of an increase of 5p a pound in the price of chicken due to the soaring price of feed, which will also affect other meats.

Although the price of beef roasting joints has been creeping up recently there are lots of good ready prepared stir fries available in most shops.

Sainsbury's beef stir fry is £1.60 a pound and lean flash fry steaks cost about £2.76 a pound. Home-produced lamb is cheaper with whole leg an average £1.91 a pound and loin chops £2.33.

Leg of pork is an average £1.07 a pound and boneless shoulder is fractionally cheaper at £1.26.

Boneless leg steaks are down in price at Safeway from £1.82 a pound to £1.58. Best meat and poultry offers are Tesco fresh beef mince at 98p and fresh basted chicken 3.9lb to 4.5lb at 74p a pound.

Fresh fish supplies are generally good, although there may be a slight shortage of family favourites such as cod, herring and mackerel by the weekend. However, prices are realistic with cod £1.50 to £2.20 a pound, herring 54p to

£1.30 and mackerel 38p-90p depending on area.

Fish which barbecue well are sardines at £1.20 a pound and whole grey mullet at £1.40. Monk fish is a little more expensive at £3.75 but worth buying for its excellent quality.

Tuna steaks are retailing at about £5.20 a pound and halibut is an excellent choice with specials starting from £3.60 a pound. Superb quality bass is about £5.95.

Lettuces are about 17p-25p each, coss and crisp 30p-45p and red varieties 40p-75p a head. They are all at their best. Cucumbers 25p, spring onions 20p-45p a bunch, English watercress 30p-45p a bunch and hot-house tomatoes 40p-60p a pound are all of wonderful quality.

English strawberries at 40p-75p a half pound are traditional fare at Wimbledon but this year for the first time American blueberries, at 75p to £1 a half pound, were also on the menu.

Cape Granny Smith apples at 25p-45p a pound and bananas at 42p-55p are also recommended; English raspberries are at 90p-£1.20 a quarter pound on the shops or 80-90 a pound if you pick your own.

Universities watchdog

By David Tyler, Education Editor

A former Scottish law lord will oversee the change in the law allowing universities to dismiss academics they consider incompetent. Lord Fraser of Tullybeton, aged 77, begins work as chairman of the University Commissioners in the autumn.

Lord Fraser said yesterday: "I have an open mind but I do think it is wrong that a university cannot get rid of people who are incompetent." The Government's Education Reform Bill abolishes security of tenure for academics. The chairman and four other commissioners yet to be appointed will be asked to modify university statutes and set up a disputes procedure.

The four other commissioners are expected to be an academic lawyer, a former university vice-chancellor, an expert on the Scottish system, and a businessman with academic world knowledge.

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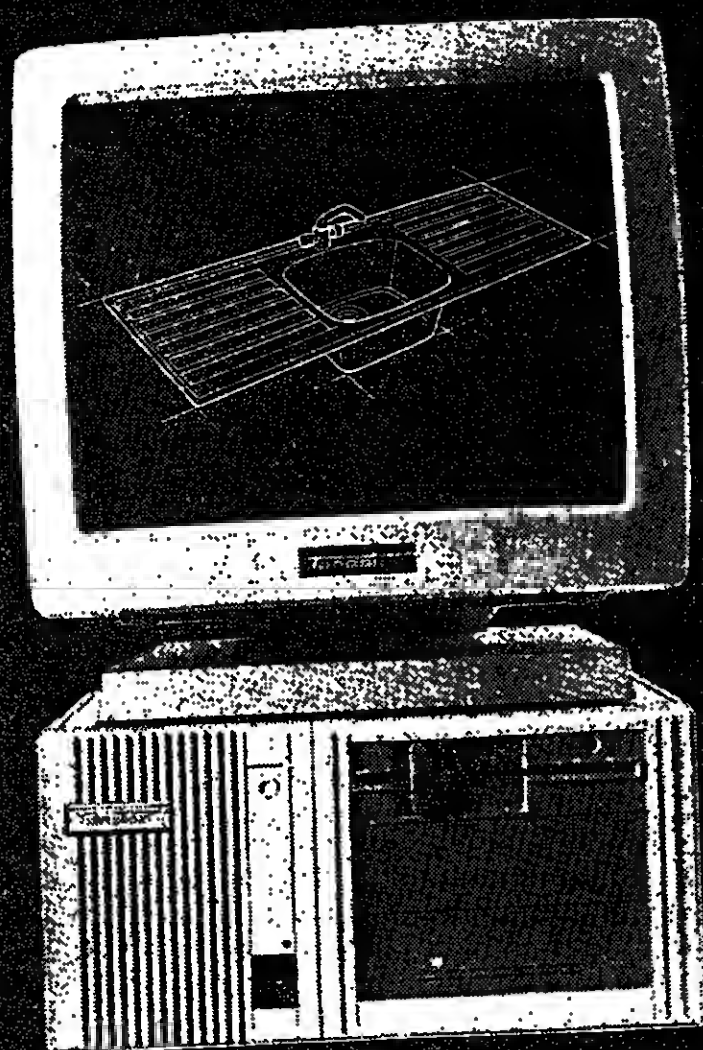
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Violence sex up as rise \$

Violence and sex-related crimes have risen sharply in the United States since 1975, according to a report by the Justice Department. The report, which is the most comprehensive yet, shows that the number of violent crimes rose 40 percent from 1975 to 1985. The number of sex crimes rose 100 percent in the same period.

The report also shows that the number of violent crimes per 100,000 people rose from 11.5 in 1975 to 16.5 in 1985. The number of sex crimes per 100,000 people rose from 1.5 in 1975 to 3.0 in 1985.

The report is based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of the Census. It covers the years 1975 through 1985. The report is the most comprehensive yet, as it includes data on all violent crimes and sex crimes.

The report also shows that the number of violent crimes per 100,000 people rose from 11.5 in 1975 to 16.5 in 1985. The number of sex crimes per 100,000 people rose from 1.5 in 1975 to 3.0 in 1985.

Reveals Dairy a trip

Top dairy producers in the United Kingdom have agreed to a new code of practice for the industry. The code, which is the first of its kind, will set out the rules for the industry and will be enforced by the government.

The code will cover a wide range of issues, including the quality of milk, the treatment of animals, and the safety of the industry. It will also set out the rules for the export of milk and milk products.

The code is the result of a long process of negotiation between the government and the dairy industry. It is expected that the code will be implemented in the next few months.

Wildlife in villa

A village in Devon is being transformed into a wildlife haven. The village, which is known as 'The Wildlife Village', is being developed by a group of conservationists.

The village will be built on a site that was once a large estate. The site is rich in wildlife and is home to a wide range of plants and animals. The conservationists hope that the village will provide a home for many of these species.

The village will be built in a way that will allow the wildlife to thrive. The buildings will be made of natural materials and will be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment.

Violence and sex crimes up as overall rise steadies

By Peter Evans

Violence against the person and sexual offences both increased by 15 per cent in the 12 months to March compared with the same period the previous year, a Home Office statistical bulletin on recorded crime said yesterday.

The rise contrasts sharply with an increase of only 1 per cent in crime overall in England and Wales. Overall recorded offences rose by 37,000 to 3,912,360.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that the total rise compared with an average annual increase over the last 30 years of 6 per cent.

Crime had dropped by 2.3 per cent in the Metropolitan Police area, by 1.2 per cent in Greater Manchester, 2.9 per cent in West Midlands and 2.6 per cent on Merseyside.

have had a decline in crime rate in the country but for that fact", he said.

Crimes against the person accounted for about 5 per cent of overall crimes. Mr Patten said he was concerned at the rise in such crimes, which had doubled in spite of longer prison sentences.

Mr Patten hoped measures in the Criminal Justice Bill, expected to get Royal Assent before the summer recess, will provide a package of deterrents.

Under the Bill, knife carriers will have to show they have a good reason for having them or face punishment.

The sale of offensive weapons for which there can be no legitimate use will be banned and suppliers will face imprisonment or a fine.

Criminals carrying firearms will risk life sentences. The Attorney General will be able to refer over- lenient sentences for the most serious offences to the Court of Appeal.

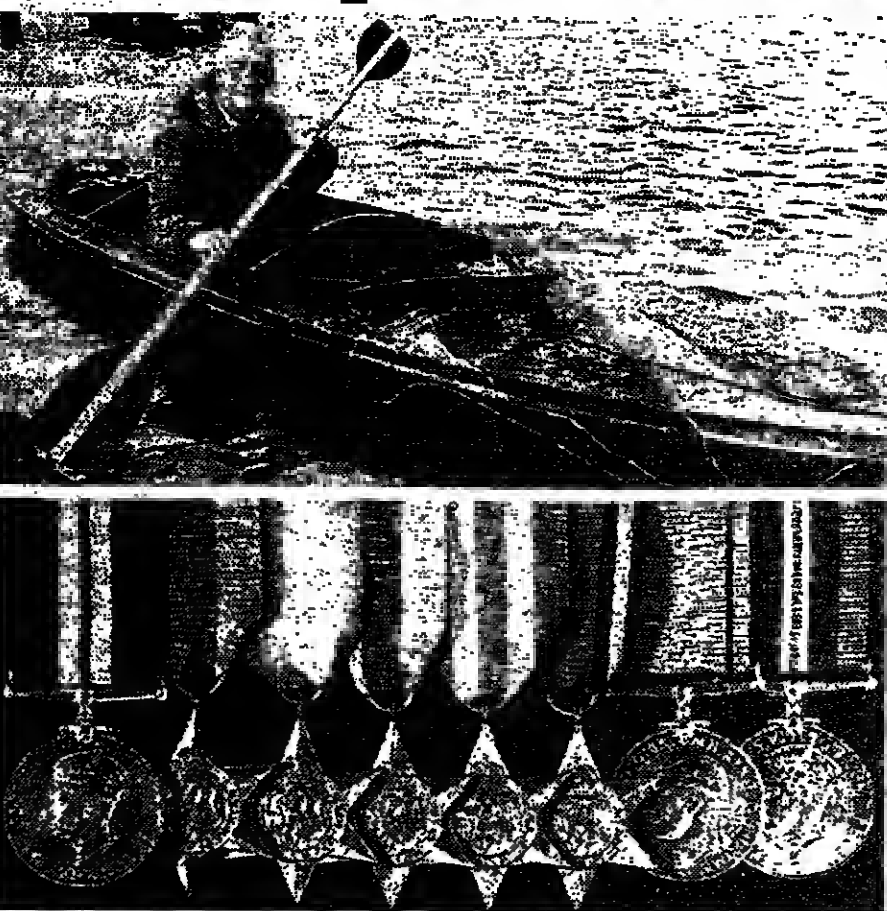
The rules guaranteeing anonymity for rape victims will be strengthened and courts will have to compensate victims of violence except in exceptional circumstances.

Police are hunting two young men who robbed a nun of her handbag containing £2 as she walked across a common at Harlow, Essex. The attackers were wearing balaclava helmets.

Det Inspector John Soanes said: "It horrifies me to think that nuns are subject to attack when they do nothing but good in the community."

The nun, aged 51, who was unhurt, is involved in social work and had been walking home after visiting old people.

Record price for hero's medals



Reflections of valor: Mr Bill Sparks, still canoeing at 65, and the medals he sold (from left) - Distinguished Service Medal, 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal and War Medal.

By David Nicholson-Lord
Mr Bill Sparks, the last of the "Cockleshell" heroes, sold the medals he won for his role in that historic raid of 1942 for a world record price of £31,000 yesterday.

Mr Sparks, aged 65, decided to part company with his Distinguished Service Medal and seven others because his invalidity pension has been cut and his savings have almost gone.

He said after the auction at Sotheby's: "I kept thinking about the lads who were on the mission with me and who didn't make it. I feel very bitter and sad because it was my prized possession."

However, he added that he was delighted with the price they fetched. The medals went to an anonymous English collector who surpassed a rival bid of £30,000 by the Royal Marine Museum. Mr David Erskine-Hill, the auctioneer's medal specialist, said the price was staggering.

Mr Sparks was one of several Marines who undertook a perilous sabotage mission in canoes up the Gironde river in France. The raid succeeded in destroying German ships in Bordeaux harbour but claimed a heavy toll: only Corporal Sparks and the leader, Major Blondie

Hasler, who died last year, returned. The story was retold in the 1955 film *Cockleshell Heroes*.

"I lost eight marvellous lads in that raid", Mr Sparks said yesterday. "The medals were a contact with them. Whenever I wore them at the Cenotaph and other parades, I was representing those boys."

Mr Sparks, who with his wife, Irene, aged 68, lives in a caravan at Herstmonceux, East Sussex, was forced into the sale when his pension was cut by £20 a week after the introduction of new benefit rules this spring.

Near-miss avoided at eleventh hour

Marble relief nets £300,000

A marble relief originally offered for sale at only £200 sold for £302,500 (including buyer's premium) at H Y Duke & Son of Dorchester yesterday.

The work, thought to be by Antonio Lombardi, the important Renaissance sculptor, probably comes from a frieze designed for the Este Palace in Sassuolo, Italy, home of the Duke of Ferrara. Its fellows are now shared between the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and the Louvre in Paris.

After a bidding battle between two telephone candidates and William Agnew, the London dealer, Mr Agnew finally prevailed, buying it for stock at £100,000 above its upper estimate.

The sale was a coup for the Dorset auctioneers, more used to prices around the £3,000 mark.

It was also a near-miss, having been sent for sale by an unidentified Weymouth resident, and catalogued at a routine January sale as a "neoclassical marble relief carved with female nude standing beside a plinth", estimated at £200 to £300.

At the eleventh hour, during the sale, Duke withdrew the lot.

Guy Swinge, one of the company's art experts, said yesterday: "I was looking through a catalogue and spotted a very similar one by the Renaissance sculptor Mosca. It crystallized at that moment."

At Sotheby's in London, yesterday, the value of paintings by Lucian Freud soared when his "Head of a Man", a small portrait of George Dyer, fetched £275,800.

The previous record for the British artist, set in July last year, was £63,800.

Dated 1966, the portrait was offered for sale by Mr H J Renton of London.

"Until 11.30 this morning, nobody knew what Freud was worth", Mr Hugues Joffre, a Sotheby's expert, said.

"One can only imagine what a full-scale work by him would fetch."

British artists performed particularly well at the sale, which achieved a record total for post-war and contemporary art of £5.6 million.

Among 11 records for individual artists a painting of Primrose Hill by Frank Auerbach fetched £137,500 (estimate up to £80,000), while Richard Hamilton's "Swinging London", a silkscreen derived from a photograph of Mick Jagger handcuffed in 1967 on a drugs charge outside Chichester court, fetched £26,400.

The top price was £616,000, paid by Stefan Hahn, the New York dealer, for an abstract sculpture by Alexander Calder, called "Could be Twins", referring to two sets of steel shapes.

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

Royal Norfolk Show

Dairy cows take a triple rosette

Top dairy cows carried off a triple at the 1988 Royal Norfolk Agricultural Show at Costessey, Norfolk.

Mr John Temple, a farmer of New Farm, Wells, Norfolk, carried off the supreme championship for a dual-purpose female. The animal took the breed championship, and was also one of the inter-breed dairy group champions for the best team of three dairy cows.

Mr Temple's prize British Friesian, Foxhole Orange Red, aged seven, has already won the Essex supreme inter-breed title and took the double at the Suffolk Show last month. She now goes to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, next week.

Mr Peter Prior, the herd manager, was delighted by her success and is now hoping to tack more rosettes behind her ears at Stoneleigh.

More than 90,000 people attended the show, under blue skies and with little wind. Mr Gavin Alston, the honorary director, said: "It depends on how many schoolchildren take advantage of their day's holiday to come to this show whether the scale swings above the 100,000 figure."

Record attendance for the two-day show was 101,188 in 1981.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in whose constituency, South Norfolk, the show was held, took the day

off to meet people and tour the grounds after a busy schedule of events on the first day.

Inter-breed group champions (best team of three) were: British Friesian, Foxhole Orange Red, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Temple, Wells, Norfolk; Jersey, Jersey House, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Clear and Mrs J. de Souza, Little Cornard, Suffolk; Guernsey, Jersey, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Clear and Mrs J. de Souza, Little Cornard, Suffolk; Friesian, Foxhole Orange Red, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Temple, Wells, Norfolk; Jersey, Jersey House, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Clear and Mrs J. de Souza, Little Cornard, Suffolk; Guernsey, Jersey, owned by Mr & Mrs J. Clear and Mrs J. de Souza, Little Cornard, Suffolk.

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Wildlife body 'naive' in village owl dispute

By David Nicholson-Lord

A vigorous dispute in a south Devon village over the living quarters of barn owls has led to accusations that the Nature Conservancy Council has failed to protect one of Britain's most endangered species.

The nest has also set a group of conservation-minded residents in Woodleigh at odds with Mr David Barons, a wealthy racehorse trainer.

The villagers claim owls are nesting in two barns Mr Barons wants to convert into flats; he has denied that, and the NCC has resolved the issue by the expedient of accepting his word.

Woodleigh residents have condemned the council for its failure to investigate, while Mr Barons has accused his critics of being newcomers to the countryside who should consider themselves lucky to be allowed to live there. The barn owl, whose numbers have dropped alarmingly in recent years, is given special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, making it an offence to damage any nest in use.

Mr Kenneth Hibon, chairman of the Woodleigh parish meeting that vetted Mr Barons's building plans, said barn and farm outbuilding conversions were running at nearly 300 in the South Hams area alone. He accused the conservancy council of being sloppy and naive.

"This is a national problem involving a rare species threatened with the loss of habitat. If the council fails to be concerned even when its attention is drawn to a specific case, what is the point of legislation?"

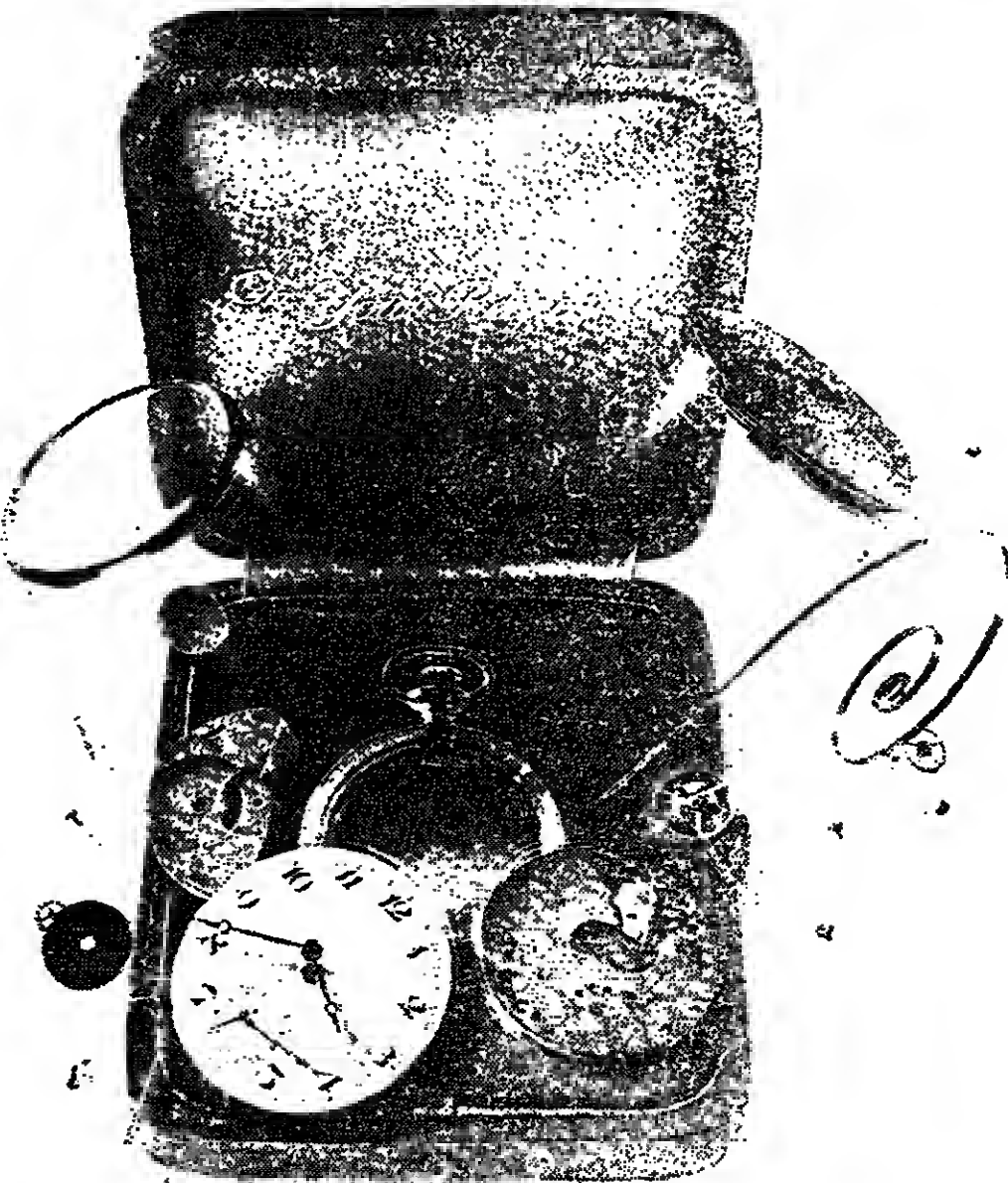
Mr Peter Nicholson, assistant director of the NCC, said the council had no right of access to sites, but confirmed it had not asked permission for a survey of the barns.

"We were told quite peremptorily that there were no owls there and it was made quite clear that any further investigation by us would not be welcome," he said.

Work has now started on the barns Mr Barons says any owl that arrives there over during the next two years will be found alternative accommodation.

Who knows what the future holds? All you can do is try to make sure the decisions you take now won't be a cause for regret in times to come. That's why the quality of pension advice you get is so important. Some people will definitely be more equal than others at retirement, simply because they talked to the right people. You'd be surprised how easy it is to get that kind of advice. All you have to do is pop along to your nearest Halifax branch. We've always looked after our customers' best interests. Now we are doing it for their pensions too. Our trained staff will carefully evaluate what you want to pay into a plan and what you want to get out of it. (How would you like to retire at 50, for example?) And they'll match those requirements with the pension to suit you. So you can plan for the good times. Instead of worrying about an untimely surprise.

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Kremlin leaders subjected to direct complaints as Moscow party conference breaks new ground

Delegates revel in open debate with Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

As the Soviet Communist Party's national conference ended its third day, many of the most cherished truths about the Soviet system had been subject to open challenge. One speaker, the head of the Communist Party in Komi region in Siberia, called — in the presence of all the delegates and the Politburo — for President Gromyko and other senior officials from the Brezhnev years to step down.

Another, a steelworker from the Urals, complained that there was nothing in the shops — no meat and no consumer goods. What was more, he said, people would not know who to complain to until the individual responsibilities of Politburo and Central Committee members were made public. At present, the portfolios are kept secret.

These direct and iconoclastic comments are becoming typical of exchanges at the conference, which is breaking new ground. Perhaps for the first time since the 1920s, Soviet political life is being played out almost in public. There is no live transmission, but two evening news programmes show lengthy excerpts from impassioned speeches. Principles are being questioned and individual leaders held to account by people who before would probably have hesitated to appear in their presence at all.

The second day's proceedings presented the extraordinary spectacle of one of the country's leading actors debating openly with the party General Secretary. The whole exchange, fragments of which were shown on television, was published in yesterday's papers, as were all the speeches that have been delivered so far.

Mr Mikhail Ulyanov, who is president of the recently formed Theatre Workers' Union and recently played Lenin on the Moscow stage, gave a practised and spirited

show of oratory. He spoke of the "accursed fear" which had "lodged in people's genes" since Stalin's time. This fear, he said, had rushed back when the now-infamous letter by Nina Andreyeva, the Leningrad lecturer, had been published in the national press in March.

The letter, which presented a virtually Stalinist political programme, was regarded by many as the work of people opposed to Mr Gorbachov's reforms. It aroused fear among Soviet intellectuals — fear which was only strengthened by the three weeks it took to reach the press.

Washington — In one of the few administration comments on changes in Moscow, Vice-President George Bush said that if Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's reforms were implemented they would "represent historic change" (Michael Binyon writes).

He told the World Affairs Council that the US was "guardedly optimistic. Much was still to be done in a totalitarian system that can be revolutionary". He attributed the change in attitudes to the US military build-up.

for the press to publish a rebuttal.

When Mr Ulyanov mentioned the Andreyeva letter, he was interrupted by Mr Gorbachov from the podium. He said that the party conference had received a letter from Ms Andreyeva in which she stood by her views. Mr Ulyanov replied that the terrifying thing was not the letter, but the fact that people regarded everything they read in the press as official pronouncements.

Mr Ulyanov's second encounter with Mr Gorbachov came during his passionate advocacy of a free press. The press, he said, was an "independent and serious force, not the tremulous handmaiden of a few party com-



Mr Boris Yeltsin, former mayor of Moscow, making a point to a conference delegate and playwright, Mr Mikhail Shatrov.

rades who were used to living and ruling unchecked".

Mr Gorbachov interrupted to support Mr Ulyanov's point and call for more "pluralism" in the party press and greater responsibility. At this point Mr Ulyanov said: "Mikhail Sergeevich, may I ask you a question?" "Please do," replied the General Secretary.

He then asked whether Mr Gorbachov favoured a press that never offended anyone, or whether he would accept that mistakes might be made and offence given if the role of the press was to be enhanced. Mr Gorbachov's reply was ambiguous in calling for boldness with responsibility. Mr Ulyanov agreed that the press needed to represent the interests of the people and the party — with which Mr Gorbachov hastily concurred. But the actor then added: "The press is also a weapon that can punish as well," before completing his speech.

The economy was a subject dealt with controversially by Mr Leonid Abalkin, an academic. But even his much-challenged view that perestroika had made no difference to the underlying trend in the Soviet economy and his call for a "completely new system" were less startling than his questioning of the one-party system.

The depth of his criticism only became apparent with the publication of the full text of his speech yesterday.

"The chief question is," he said, "whether we can organize society democratically and at the same time keep the organization of society by... the one-party system. Yes or no? And if yes, how can we do it?" If the Soviet Union intended to keep this system and the principles and organizations that went with it, he continued, there would have to be guarantees of the broadest possible expression of opinions.

He concluded: "Only when

there is a choice between alternatives will the leadership be fulfilling its function as the leadership of society. If there is no choice, its only function is to correct projects which have been prepared by the apparatus. That is inevitable."

Such sentiments may have been voiced before by a Communist Party member who has the ear of the top Soviet leaders, but never at a forum where the Soviet public could read it in their newspapers.

What the party conference has done, in a way that no previous Soviet Communist Party gathering has done, is to bring the nature and role of

the Communist Party and its ruling bodies under public scrutiny. A forerunner of what was to come was provided by a selection of readers' letters — published in *Pravda* under the headline, What I Would Say if I Was a Delegate — on the opening day of the conference.

He went on: "The party decides who can join, it takes the most important decisions for society as a whole, and assesses its own performance at plenums, conferences and congresses... Is it any wonder that it takes so long for society to get to know about the 20 years of stagnation (the Brezhnev years), or half a century to find out about Stalin's terror and his scale?"

Mr N. Timoshenko, an engineer from Sverdlovsk asked how anyone could know

whether perestroika was having any impact on the Central Committee when they knew so little about the upper reaches of the party.

He complained that the Central Committee was still exempt from *glasnost*. "We do not know what standing bodies the central committee has, we do not know anything about its structure, how many people work there, how its work is organized, the principles according to which its cadres are selected and trained, their conditions of work, or the services they are provided with. We do not know the first thing about the

Politburo or the Central Committee secretariat — for instance, what they do, why each individual member is responsible for. Sometimes we know more about American senators and congressmen than we do about our own leaders."

Mr A. Russo, from Kishinev in Moldavia said he supported perestroika, but was concerned that the training of the administrative apparatus would jeopardize his future and that of his family. A relatively junior official in his forties, he said: "I understand the need for cuts in the bureaucracy. I knew about it before, but I did not have the slightest inkling of the situation three or four years ago before perestroika. I certainly could not have foreseen the course of events at the beginning of my career."

He went on: "Since then, many years have passed. And all that time — or so they told me — and I believed they — I did a useful and necessary job. I showed initiative, obtained the required results, grew into the job, and gained authority and respect. But I was a product, as I now understand, of the time of stagnation. Have all my achievements been worth nothing?... So it seems."

● MOSCOW: Prosecutors have completed a bribery investigation against Mr Yuri Churbanov, a son-in-law of Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader. It was reported yesterday. It was indicated that his case would go to trial soon (Reuter reports).

Mr Churbanov, a former senior government official, who is charged with systematic bribe-taking, will be tried by the Supreme Court, *Soverskaya Rossiya* said, along with five former police chiefs from Uzbekistan, as well as the Central Asian republic's former interior minister and two deputies. The report indicated that all are accused of paying Mr Churbanov bribes.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Italians agree to accept F16s base

Rome (Reuter) — The Italian Parliament yesterday voted to accept the transfer of American F16 fighter-bombers from Spain by 1991, despite fierce opposition from the Communists and other left-wing parties.

A motion presented by the five-party coalition was approved after a two-day debate by 298 votes to 196, with 24 absentees. The Foreign Minister, Signor Giulio Andreotti, rejected opposition claims that the relocation to Italy would harm superpower relations. Washington was forced to agree to move the 72 planes from the Torrejon base after a wrangle with Madrid about reducing its military presence.

● BONN: Herr Werner Hoyer, a defence expert in the Free Democratic Party, yesterday called for the immediate grounding of F16s stationed in West Germany after two separate crashes involving three of the US Air Force planes.

Mugabe releases 75

Harare — President Mugabe has ordered the release of 75 members of the security forces and of the vigilante-style youth wing of the ruling Zanu (PF) party convicted of atrocities and human rights abuses (Jan Raath writes).

A government spokesman confirmed yesterday that an order for a "special category of amnesty" had been issued. It was reported without attribution by Bulawayo's *Chronicle* newspaper yesterday, a month after a six-week amnesty for guerrillas in the Matabeleland bush ended with 114 giving themselves up. It is understood that after the amnesty Mr Mugabe was lobbied by senior officers of the armed forces and of the Zanu (PF) executive, arguing that the guerrillas' freedom required a *quid pro quo* for convicted members of the security forces and the youth wing. Legal sources say the 75 "must account for nearly all" government or party members convicted of atrocities in Matabeleland.

Death penalty review

Washington — The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to consider banning the death penalty for all juvenile murderers, a day after issuing a decision that could end capital punishment for killers who committed their crimes under the age of 16 (Michael Binyon writes).

The court said it would decide next year whether the death penalty for children violated the constitutional ban on "cruel and unusual punishment". Thirty people who committed crimes when under 18 are on death row and nine states allow the execution of children as young as 14. On Wednesday the court voted to overturn the death sentences of three juvenile murderers, including Paula Cooper, for whom the Pope had appealed for clemency.

White House drugs

Washington — The White House yesterday said it would begin mandatory random drug tests on its staff within 60 days after three Secret Service guards and two secretaries at the National Security Council were relieved of their duties and face possible arrest after an investigation into cocaine use at the White House (Michael Binyon writes).

The three guards are on paid leave and the two secretaries have been dismissed. President Reagan was told that there were no breaches of security.

Torture acquittals

Cairo (Reuter) — An Egyptian court yesterday acquitted 44 policemen accused of torturing detained Muslim fundamentalists after the 1981 assassination of President Sadat. The officers, ranging from a corporal to a lieutenant-general, had been charged with torturing defendants during the mass trial, which lasted two years, of members of the outlawed Jihad group. The policemen were accused of flogging them and burning them with cigarettes to force confessions. The Cairo Criminal Court said it had 130 reasons for acquitting the officers, including what it said was a lack of evidence.

Britain takes over

Royal Navy warships begin their first joint patrols in the Gulf today with Dutch and Belgian minesweepers, as Britain takes the presidency of the Western European Union (Nicholas Beeston writes). Whitehall sources said yesterday that Britain had four main goals during its one-year presidency of the seven-member defence grouping: boosting co-operation in logistics and training; strengthening the WEU as a pillar in the broader Western alliance; building on its joint operations such as in the Gulf; and opening the way for Spain and Portugal to join.

Dispute over Transylvania intensifies

Romania warns Hungary of sterner measures

From Richard Bassett Debrecen, Hungary

Sending up clouds of dust, the three diplomatic lorries, flanked by motorcycle outriders, sluggishly made their way to Debrecen.

Loaded with the books, furniture and diplomatic dining service of Hungary's ill-fated consulate in Cluj in north-east Romania, it was an unusual convoy. Farmers watched its progress carefully, aware that it marked the rude shutting of Hungary's window on Transylvania, the cradle of Magyar culture where more than a million ethnic Hungarians have lived since the region was ceded to Romania after the First World War.

With the lorries came consular staff. Among the seven full-time consuls, drivers and secretaries with their families, there was little sign of the hasty preparations which had accompanied Romania's 48-hour ultimatum to close the consulate.

The move, without precedent in diplomatic relations between Warsaw Pact states,

was accompanied yesterday by reports that the Romanians had also insisted that Hungary close its cultural centre in Bucharest. The decision has infuriated the Hungarians, but both the former Cluj Consul, Mr Domokos Vekas, and his Vice-Consul, Mr Emil Popovics, displayed only imperceptible calm.

Mr Vekas, who spent more than five years in Cluj and completed his high school education there, clearly felt that he had been cut off from his roots. "This is a move which cannot help either country. None of us is happy at being forced to leave," a consular colleague said.

The Romanian decision has been justified as suitable retaliation for what it considers the Hungarians' official tolerance of an anti-Romanian demonstration by tens of thousands in front of the Romanian Embassy in Budapest on Monday. The demonstration was a protest against plans by the Romanian leader, President Ceausescu, to raze hundreds of villages in

Transylvania, which is seen by Hungarians as a deliberate attempt at cultural genocide.

Yesterday, the entire region between Debrecen and the Romanian frontier was seething with rumour. Hungarians who were in Cluj earlier this

week said that military service for students at the university had been stepped up.

The mood of the population in Cluj is said to be tense, with the majority of the citizens, Romanian as well as Hungar-

ian, nervous that the deterioration in relations may lead to military confrontation.

Mr Karoly Grosz, Hungary's leader, was at pains to point out that Hungary would do its best to restore relations with Romania. "Do not think that temporary differences are necessarily permanent," he said after the Hungarian Parliament had debated the Transylvania question.

Nearer the frontier the mood is less optimistic. "There is bound to be a provocation sooner or later, a young Magyar man living near Cluj said yesterday. "No one believes that this will go on indefinitely. Everyone is waiting for something."

Hungarians in Debrecen reacted in anger at the closure of the consulate. "You see what happens when we try to demonstrate peacefully," said a student who, at Monday's demonstration, had waved a banner comparing Mr Ceausescu with Hitler.

Mr Ceausescu, as if aware that there may be a recurrence of Monday's demonstration

outside his embassy, reiterated that he was prepared to close the Romanian Embassy in Budapest and, if necessary, completely break off ties with Hungary.

Accompanying these heated exchanges, regulations on the Romanian side of the frontier came into force this week, tightening up security within 10 miles of the border. Anyone found straying off the main roads without proof that they are resident in the area will be presumed to be leaving Romania illegally.

● BELGRADE: Mr Stjepan Suvar, a hard-liner from Croatia, has been elected Yugoslavia's Communist Party president (AP reports). Mr Suvar, long considered the party ideologist, won by an unspecified margin from another Croatian, Mr Ivica Racan, a reformist.

During a recent party conference in Slovenia, Yugoslavia's most liberal republic, Mr Suvar was openly called the party's "greatest dogmatist". He is believed to be an ally of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, president of the hard-line leadership in Serbia.

Party vote puts Begin family on course for a comeback

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The fiery oratory of the Begin family is certain to be heard in the Knesset after the general election in November after Wednesday's vote by the 2,000 members of the Herut Party central committee to choose its candidates.

Mr Binyamin (Benny) Begin, son of the former party leader and Prime Minister Mr Menachem Begin, was a favourite choice, coming third out of the 104 hopefuls for 35 places.

He beat all the long-established party leaders even though he only agreed to stand two days earlier, showing the charisma of the family name

and respect for his ability to make rousing speeches.

The first place went to another young lion of the party, Mr Binyamin Netanyahu, until recently Israel's outspoken Ambassador to the United Nations and brother of the man who died leading the Entebbe rescue operation 12 years ago. The family is revered in Israel because of this connection, and the former ambassador, who is American-educated, is a certain vote winner.

A close runner-up was Mr Moshe Katsav, another of the party's young guard, a city Knesset member who has already won distinction as Labour Minister.

After the three young ones

came three members of the established leadership. First was Mr Moshe Arens, who is the choice of Mr Yitzhak Shamir as his successor as party leader. Next came Mr

good for Mr Sharon, who has trailed Mr Levy in popularity for some time. It indicates that he is poised to make a serious challenge for the leadership when Mr Shamir decides to

be given to the old guard, with the popular young recruits given lower but realistic places. The Herut list will be integrated with the Liberals' list for the election to form one for the Likud faction. Mr Shamir will automatically be first on the list.

● Missile deal: Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, yesterday ended a week-long visit to the United States after signing a deal meant to curb the growing threat to security from the missile arsenal in Arab countries.

The deal means that the US will pay 80 per cent of the \$130 million (£76 million) cost of Israel's development of the Arrow anti tactical ballis-

tic missile, which is designed to intercept ground-to-ground missiles.

There is added urgency here for completion of the programme after reports that Syria wants to buy accurate M9 ground-to-ground missiles from China.

These missiles could hit virtually any target in Israel from Syrian territory. Defence planners here are particularly concerned that they could be used to launch chemical warheads.

Mr Rabin gave a warning last week that the best defence against this kind of weapon was attack, and that Israel would strike back "sevenfold" against any country that used them.

Crippled US television looks to Britain for a happy ending

From Charles Bremner New York

American viewers may soon be watching far more British television if Hollywood and New York script-writers keep up a strike that has turned into one of the most damaging stoppages in the American entertainment industry and is now threatening the future of the main broadcasting networks.

On Wednesday, Mr Brandon Tartikoff, the head of entertainment for NBC, the most successful network, said the dispute, now in its 17th week, had precipitated a crisis and he threatened a series of moves to limit the damage.

Among these is a plan to buy programmes from Britain and Canada. The big three networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — show virtually no British material. The BBC and the

independent British networks have had their drama and comedy hits on the much less powerful public television channels and local stations.

Mr Tartikoff warned in his stern statement, aimed at both the writers and the production companies which employ them, that the strike could shape the fortunes of the big networks.

The corporations are already locked in a struggle to keep their audiences and advertising from the encroachment of cable television, better local stations and other video entertainment.

For weeks, television audiences have been treated to weary repeats of popular situation comedies and police dramas. The companies have brought non-union labour in to write the daytime soap operas, presumably on the principle

that amateurs could handle the wooden dialogue, pregnant pauses and meaningful glances as well as the professionals. Writers have also been working under ooloon-approved contracts to keep up the joke flow on certain popular talk shows, such as Johnny Carson's.

But if the strike runs for another two weeks the networks may have to cancel their next season of new shows, the vital autumn period when the ratings make or break the companies' balance sheets.

Last week, the Writers' Guild voted to reject a "final offer" from the producers, setting the scene for weeks of deadlock. The producers now say they will not even take telephone calls from the Guild.

About 1,000 dissident writers are campaigning to go back to work, accusing their colleagues of waging what amounts to a political cam-

paign that threatens the whole industry.

In the feature film business the crunch has been slower in coming because of its less urgent thirst for scripts. But the big studios are beginning to feel the pinch. Filming is being delayed and even completed scripts require writers for revisions during shooting.

The writers have not endeared themselves to the several thousand lesser Hollywood workers who have been laid off. These include wardrobe workers, electricians, make-up artists, and electricians. The writers, they suspect, are busy at home with their word processors stacking up on scripts for the end of the strike.

The big studios, such as Twentieth Century Fox in Beverly Hills and Universal Studios in Hollywood, are acquiring the feel of ghost towns. Universal closed its canteen last

week because so few people are working. The economic effects are being felt by the Los Angeles restaurant business and the car dealers, who are getting used to repossessing the Mercedes and Porsches of new poor writers.

Beyond the bitterness, the experts see the strike as a symptom of Hollywood's explosion of costs. The producers are finding that it is harder to pass on the burden of high fees and salaries to the television market.

The big shows are now "deficit financed", which means that the production companies only make profits on a series after it has run for three years and moved into syndication with independent stations, or is sold abroad.

The strike's sticking points in the strike involve fees for programmes in syndication and foreign royalties.

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Attention

Slide toll

Impatience proves a stumbling block on Roh road to reform

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The path to democracy in South Korea may be paved with good intentions, but it remains strewn with petrol bombs, allegations of corruption and bitter memories of a massacre.

A year after hastening the end of authoritarian rule with a declaration of liberal reforms, President Roh is finding it impossible to implement them to everyone's liking.

Mr Roh summed up his dilemma in a policy speech this week marking the first anniversary of his reform movement. "It is saddening that unrestrained public demands, that cannot be met in one fell swoop, are erupting as the process of democratization goes on."

"Impatience to resolve immediately problems that have accumulated over a long period is spreading throughout society."

Appealing for patience and restraint, he expressed concern about recurring civil unrest. "Movements to topple our treasured free democratic system by violent revolution have emerged," he said.

With the Seoul Olympics fast approaching, Mr Roh's

most pressing task is to quell unruly students who refuse to recognize his election to office. In this he is aided by growing public disenchantment with the students, once the vanguard of the revolution against authoritarian rule. Most people are fed up with the violent antics of a small minority of idealists and hot-heads. Thus a widely-publicized demonstration for reunification talks with North Korea in early June failed to attract popular support, even from within the student body itself.

Last week a mob of students shot themselves in the foot by ransacking the office of the president of the prestigious Seoul National University. The mindless attack was universally deplored, even in opposition circles.

So far Mr Roh has wisely refrained from clamping a lid on dissent, opting to offer moderate concessions. His latest suggestion this week was to organize a soccer match between students from South and North Korea.

The idea is regarded by his critics as a trial balloon which will eventually disappear, but it served to remind the stu-

dents who is in charge. They may expect a further and more salutary reminder soon. Evidently encouraged by antipathy towards the petrol bomb brigade, Mr Roh pledged in his anniversary address to "resolutely deal with those overstepping the boundaries of the law".

Of more serious concern to the former army general are demands from opposition parties, which dominate the National Assembly, for inquiries into the conduct of the previous regime in which he served as Minister for Home Affairs. At the top of the list is the suppression of a revolt in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980, in which martial law troops shot dead at least 200 people. Equally controversial are allegations of corruption by former President Chun and his family.

The Opposition, led by the Mr Kim Dae Jung, has been using its new-found political muscle to force parliamentary debates on both issues. In his anniversary speech, Mr Kim said that unless both affairs were cleared up promptly, political stability and the Olympics were at risk.

Hanoi pulls out Cambodia command



Lieutenant-General Le Ngoc Hien, left, shaking hands with General Koy Buntha, his Cambodian counterpart, before the Vietnamese military commanders left Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh (Reuter) - The high command of Vietnam's Army in Cambodia went home yesterday, a big step by Hanoi in winding down its nine-year occupation of its neighbour.

Lieutenant-General Le Ngoc Hien and about 300 members of his Cambodian command boarded Vietnamese planes and helicopters at Pochentong airport and departed for south Vietnam, witnesses said.

Vietnam says it will withdraw half of its approximately 100,000 troops in Cambodia this year and the remainder by the end of 1990. Command of the remaining Vietnamese soldiers now passes officially to the Cambodian military.

The departure of Vietnam's high command is likely to be seen as a demonstration of Vietnam's confidence in the ability of the pro-Hanoi Government of Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, to resist the coalition of guerrilla groups.

Vietnam sent 200,000 troops into Cambodia in 1979 to topple the four-year-old rule of the Khmer Rouge, which is still the most effective fighting force in the three-party coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot was blamed for the deaths of up to a million Cambodians. Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Government have insisted that any peace settlement should guarantee that the Khmer Rouge does not return to power.

A senior Vietnamese official said this week that the guerril-

las were in no position to topple the Government without outside aid. Many Vietnamese units were no longer necessary, such as artillery, anti-aircraft and tank units, and had been or would be pulled out, he said.

Vietnamese civilian advisers would be removed by the end of the year although some experts would be sent back to the country on temporary assignments, the official said.

The main weakness of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla campaign was its lack of support because of the party's violent history in power, he said.

Mr Hun Sen said on Wednesday that about a quarter of the 50,000 Vietnamese troops due to leave the country this year had already left. He said that he would meet Mr Rafee Uddin Ahmed, the United Nations envoy who was due to arrive in the Cambodian capital late yesterday.

The pace of diplomatic efforts to end the conflict has quickened and Indonesia is trying to arrange a peace conference involving all parties later this month. HO CHI MINH CITY: A total of 25,000 Vietnamese soldiers have been killed in Cambodia since Vietnam toppled the Khmer Rouge regime. Major-General La Kha Phieu, deputy Commander-in-Chief of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia, said. He also revealed that Vietnam had lost 30,000 troops in fighting against the Khmer Rouge in south-west Vietnam between 1977 and 1979.

Churchmen defy Pretoria and call for boycott

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African church leaders, in their most clear-cut act of civil disobedience, yesterday openly defied the state of emergency regulations by calling on all Christians in the country to boycott the October 26 elections to segregated municipal councils.

Declaring that "the truth cannot be bound by unjust laws", 26 church leaders, representing 16 different denominations, urged their fellow Christians to refuse to take part in the elections either as candidates or as voters.

"By involving themselves in the elections, Christians would be participating in their oppression or the oppression of others," the churchmen said, adding their voice to that of the outlawed ANC, which has already said it intends to disrupt the election campaign.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican Church

Johannesburg (AP) - At least 13 whites and one black were injured yesterday when a bomb exploded in a Pretoria shopping arcade that also houses the Air Force headquarters and the Prisons Department, police said. Two of the whites were children.

The blast was the latest in a series of attacks, which police have blamed on the outlawed African National Congress, aimed at civilians.

in southern Africa, heads the multiracial list of signatories to the boycott appeal, which is also supported, among others, by the Baptist, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and sections of the Dutch Reformed Church set up to minister to blacks and mixed-race Coloureds.

In a joint statement the churchmen said that, as newspapers here would be prohibited from publishing their appeal under the state of emergency, they intended to disseminate it through church newsletters and news agencies and by word of mouth in defiance of the law.

They were calling for the boycott, they said, because no elections could be fair and free under the emergency and because "the structures of the constitutional system in South Africa are based on racial and ethnic identity".

The decision to call for a

boycott, which is a direct violation of the emergency censorship regulations and punishable by a maximum prison term of 10 years, was taken in closed session by delegates at the annual conference of the South African Council of Churches.

The Council of Churches, and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, which has observer status in the council and shares its political views, have a following of 10-23 million, 80 per cent of them black. This is about a third of the population of South Africa.

Dr Frank Chikane, the general secretary of the Council of Churches, foreshadowed the boycott call when he opened the council's conference last Monday night, declaring that the time had come to move decisively from "passive condemnation of the system to active opposition to it".

Over the past year the churches have found themselves thrust more and more into the fore of the struggle against apartheid as the Government has tightened the screw of repression and censorship, culminating last February in the effective banning of 17 leading extra-parliamentary organizations.

Five days after the issue of the restriction order, Archbishop Tutu led a group of 150 clergymen of all races and faiths who tried to march to Parliament to present a petition of protest to President Botha. Police with water cannon broke up the procession.

The churches are the only significant multiracial institutions here in which blacks have been elected to positions of leadership and where a form of democratic majority rule operates. A further worsening of church-state relations can only be to Pretoria's disadvantage, but if it allows the emergency regulations to be flouted it runs the risk of inviting more violations and truntings of weakness from the far-right Conservative Party.

If Pretoria can persuade a respectable number of blacks to turn out at the polling booths, it will have successfully relaunched the government-sponsored system of black township councils.

IRA guns ruling

Brussels - A Belgian lawyer has been given a one-year jail sentence suspended for five years for his role in running guns for the IRA in 1983 (Jonathan Braude writes). Robert Versteegh, aged 51, was convicted on an appeal by the public prosecutor after a lower court had ruled his case was not proven. French police found the guns at Le Havre harbour.

Poll tension

Port Moresby (AP) - Papua New Guinea tribesmen supporting rival candidates in provincial elections fought with bows and arrows and 10 were admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

Landslide toll

Ankara - Ten more bodies were recovered from a coffee house in Turkey's north-eastern village of Catak as the death toll from last week's landslide continued to rise.

Seal virus

Stockholm (Reuter) - Hundreds of dead and dying seals stricken by a mystery virus are being washed ashore on Sweden's west coast.

Defiant births

Peking (AFP) - China estimates that one million children were born in defiance of a one child per family policy and that they are without papers needed to get an education, jobs and rations.

Iranian vote

Nicosia (Reuter) - The Iranian Prime Minister, Mr Mir-Hossein Mousavi, won a vote of confidence from the new Parliament by 204-8, the Iran news agency reported.

Suspect killed

Delhi (AFP) - Maoist rebels beheaded a suspected police informer in Andhra Pradesh and hung the severed head on a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.



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Coalition wrangles cloud Kohl's image

From Richard Owen, Bonn

West Germans, like other Europeans, enjoy success. National attention is gripped by the Wimbledon fortunes of Boris Becker and Steffi Graf. On a deeper level, West Germany's image in the EEC and Nato is rising high, and will be further enhanced today by the arrival in Brussels of Herr Manfred Wörner, the former Defence Minister, as Nato Secretary-General in succession to Lord Carrington.

Yet Chancellor Helmut Kohl returned to Bonn from the EEC summit in Hanover to find that, whatever his standing abroad, his position at home is less secure, not least because of the increasing fragility of his coalition.

Herr Kohl, *Die Zeit* said, is unpredictable and a poor communicator. "Not only is he deficient at explaining what he does, sometimes he seems not even to want to bother." And *Stern*, more bluntly, said: "Kohl has lost his instinct for what pleases or impresses the public, and he dismisses criticism. His impetuosity in taking voters for fools is breathtaking."

Herr Kohl certainly presided over a successful EEC summit, and was congratulated for his EEC presidency. Herr Martin Bangemann, the former Economics Minister, failed in his bid to become President of the European Commission. But he is to be given a senior post in Brussels by way of compensation. Bonn's successful campaign

to focus EEC energies on monetary union means West Germany will play a central role in the 1992 single market process. Equally, the arrival in Brussels of Herr Wörner is seen as symbolizing West Germany's crucial role in the Western Alliance.

Herr Wörner, like Lord Carrington, is widely respected in Nato. Some officials here think he may prove more irascible and less diplomatic than Lord Carrington and there are lingering doubts about his judgement.

But European leaders are reassured by Herr Wörner's Frankfurt (Reuter) - Saatchi and Saatchi, whose advertising helped put the Conservative Party in power, has been hired by West Germany's ruling Christian Democrats. The firm's West German subsidiary, Saatchi and Saatchi GmbH, said it was handling the 1989 local election campaign for the Frankfurt section of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's right-wing party.

insistence on strong Western defences, and they believe his backing for nuclear modernization will help to defuse tensions over the updating of short-range nuclear missiles deployed in West Germany.

There is no disguising that, despite its favourable international image, West Germany is rent by internal division, with the Christian Democrat-Free Democrat coalition under growing strain.

The key issue is Herr Kohl's much vaunted tax reform, which comes to a final vote in the Bundestag (Upper House) next week. Because of dissension the proposals have been

watered down, yet they remain controversial. This has damaged the standing of the Finance Minister, who was once seen as a potential Chancellor but whose future is in doubt.

"The coalition is suffering a haemorrhage," one observer said. With Herr Bangemann and Herr Wörner in Brussels, and other ministers faltering, Herr Kohl is under pressure to consolidate the Government through an autumn reshuffle.

Some even believe the coalition is past saving. Hanover revealed an open split between Herr Kohl and Herr Hans-

Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister and a leading Free Democrat, over West Germany's concept of monetary union.

There is no move yet for the Free Democrats to abandon Herr Kohl and revert to their former coalition with the Social Democrats. But the Social Democrats were boosted by their victory in the regional election in Schleswig-Holstein in May, and are likely to display growing confidence at their party congress in August.

The likely successor to Herr Bangemann as leader of the Free Democrats, Count Otto Lambsdorff, launched a wide-

ranging critique of the coalition's economic record yesterday. As if to back him up, four of West Germany's leading economics institutes issued a report forecasting low growth next year - 1.25 per cent compared with 2 per cent this year - with higher inflation and unemployment.

Herr Kohl emerged last month from his party congress at Wiesbaden with his authority intact. But he was also - as one party source put it - "given warning" that the party is unhappy about coalition wrangling and that his re-election as party leader next year before the 1990 general election is "not automatic".

To add to his troubles, Herr Kohl was also threatened by the Greens with a court case over his alleged role in a scandal involving the sale of West German submarines to South Africa in breach of a United Nations embargo.

His immediate concern, however, is to placate regional Prime Ministers from his own party, who threatened to overturn the tax reforms unless Bonn pays more for social security handouts, a burden largely borne by the regions.

The leader of the regional revolt is Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony. Herr Albrecht was the host in Hanover but he made clear to Herr Kohl that sharing the summit glory did not in any way mean that Herr Kohl's domestic difficulties had gone away.



Herr Kohl enjoying a break from his worries when he played football yesterday at a children's party in the Chancellery.

Greece at helm of the EEC it loved to hate

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The rating Greek Socialists are putting on their best European faces as their country assumes the rotating presidency of the EEC today for the second half of the year.

It is a far cry from those early days of 1981 when Socialist campaign slogans would damn the "community of monopolies" to the same eternal fire as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or even from the first Greek presidency in 1983 when European ministers, outraged by Greek sermons in Third World jargon, would storm out of sessions.

Several billion European Currency Units later, all this has changed. As Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, put it at a recent gathering of worried Greek businessmen: "For Greece, the answer is Europe."

It took Mr Papandreu's Socialists seven years of painful improvisations in the economy and foreign affairs to come to grips with reality. They now know that without the Community's support, their fragile economy would not have survived the mismanagement, corruption and investors' distrust.

Above all, full Community membership has given Greece the power to block Turkey's accession, offering Mr Papandreu a unique bargaining counter when tackling problems in the Aegean and over Cyprus.

Mr Papandreu wants the Greek presidency to be uneventfully successful. Although the risks of a frontier-free European market by 1992 are high for protectionist Greece, he has vowed not to hold up the unification process.

His services promise to churn out 25 to 30 of the harmonization directives, compared to West Germany's prolific 100 out of 300 needed.

The focus, therefore, is likely to be more on the activities closer to his heart - developing the Community's foreign relations, especially with the Soviet bloc and the Arab world, or dabbling at some international peace-making. The Greek presidency's main theme, entitled "The creation of a unified social space", aims to give European unification a social dimension by concentrating on working conditions, workers' health problems, employment opportunities and sexual equality.

To show that at least on sex equality it really means business, Greece is giving the next European Commission its first woman commissioner in the person of Mrs Vaso Papandreu (no relation to the

Prime Minister) who is a leading party cadre and former minister with a Reading University PhD in economics.

Mr Papandreu does not underrate the prestige value of the presidency 12 months before the next general election is due. He evidently regrets that Chancellor Kohl of West Germany stole the march on him with last week's Community-Consoc agreement. Had it been left to Greece it might have increased his influence with the left.

He hopes to make up for it by co-announcing this marriage through Community agreements with Hungary and Czechoslovakia and, hopefully, the Soviet Union. Should this lead to a meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, his sagging popularity with the Greek Communists might pick up in time for the elections.

The Greek leader is fully aware how Greek susceptibilities are flattered whenever he assumes some international initiative. So we can expect him to do his peace-maker's hat to have a go at the Gulf War or the fends in Latin America. But his gut reaction against Israel's West Bank policies halted a process that was leading to full Greek diplomatic recognition of Israel. Without that, he can hardly expect the Greek presidency to play a meaningful role in Middle East peace efforts.

The next European summit will be held early in December in Rhodes, quite appropriately in the refurbished palace of the Grand Masters of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, itself a brotherhood of noblemen from most of the European nations that are to be represented at the summit 700 years later.

It is there that Mr Papandreu must produce a satisfactory mid-term review of the unification process. Considering how poor his domestic credentials are, his critics say that perhaps he should simply ensure that, as in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "not a mouse shall disturb this hallow'd house".

For the average Greek who may wonder who will be minding the store while the Government will be running Europe, there will be a consolation prize after Tuesday: imported bananas.

These were banned by the military regime in 1972 to protect a handful of growers of a poorer, finger-sized variety on Crete. The present Government felt it could no longer appear to be flouting the rules of a Community over which it must preside with European equanimity, if not Germanic efficiency.

Spain's 'dirty war'

Official silence on fund to crush Eta

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A magistrate investigating suspected official involvement in a murderous "dirty war" against Basque terrorists suffered another setback yesterday when three more police chiefs refused to answer questions about the use of secret funds.

The three high-ranking policemen, who were warned before giving testimony yesterday that they were being interrogated as suspects rather than witnesses, cited orders from the Interior Minister, Señor José Barrionuevo, as the reason for refusing to answer questions about the secret funds.

The Minister himself had refused earlier this week to reply to such questions and had informed the magistrate that he was ordering his subordinates to do the same "in the name of the Government". In his last official communication to the Interior Minister, the magistrate advised him that he may be guilty of obstructing justice in refusing to furnish the evidence requested.

If an official body which looks out for the independence and integrity of the courts, the General Council of Judiciary Authority, refrains from ruling on the conflict, legal sources said here, the magistrate could call on the Supreme Court to indict the Minister of the Interior.

"We are aware of the importance of the incidents," said a spokesman for the General Council, "but this is not the right time to make a pronouncement because we are lacking some information, including something as fundamental as the Minister's reply."

The inquiry is looking into the suspected hiring of mercenaries by a Spanish deputy police chief, Señor José Amedo, to attack exiled activists of the Basque separatist group Eta in south-west France. Señor Amedo, or

someone closely resembling him, was identified by people convicted in Portugal and France of belonging to the shadowy GAL (Anti-Eta Liberation Groups) as the man who contracted them for bombings and shootings.

A French court has asked for the police official's extradition to face charges connected with the attacks on Eta activists. Consistent 're-



Señor Barrionuevo: Refuses to answer questions.

stance and even refusal on the part of the Government to cooperate in the investigation has heightened suspicions, echoed regularly in newspaper leading articles, of the Socialist Government's complicity in the activities of GAL which first appeared five years ago.

In testimony on Wednesday, the Director General of Police, Señor José María Colorado, not only refused to discuss the secret funds, he also admitted that his department had not even investigated the GAL group.

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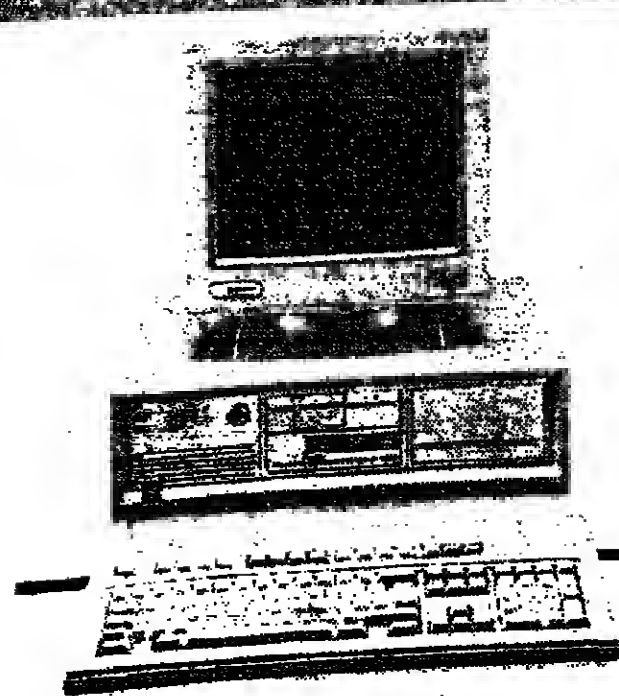
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12
June 30 1988

PARLIAMENT

Single European currency 'still a long way off'

Despite the decision by the European Council in Hanover earlier this week to set up a study to consider steps towards economic and monetary union, the Prime Minister made clear that she still felt that the creation of a single European currency was a long way off.

PRIME MINISTER

result in a reversal of her Government's policy of weakening the industrial health and safety regulations and curbing the number of health and safety inspectors?

Did that commitment mean the withdrawal of her resistance to the proposals of the president of the European Commission to change the monetary policy to foster workers' participation in decision-making?

It was well known that the Prime Minister was in conflict with her Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subjects of EMS and monetary union.

She had also said that a European central bank was not on the cards, but given that the realization of monetary union had agreed to establish a study group under M Delors, which would propose and agree steps leading to monetary union, and

Before monetary union can be achieved, other countries will have to come up to our standard

when it was obvious that the central banks favoured monetary union, was she not facing both ways?

Was the Prime Minister committed to monetary union, and what followed from it, by virtue of her agreement with the European Council - or did she not accept monetary union, and its consequences, in any circumstances?

Would she give an undertaking that, in any event, any report from the study group would be debated and determined upon in the House of Commons?

Mrs Thatcher had given earlier undertakings about not extending value-added tax to some necessities.

Would she give an assurance that she would use the veto to stop the extension of VAT to any items which were now zero-rated?

Mrs Thatcher said that of course the single market in the EEC would benefit all its citizens, just as rising prosperity benefited them all.

The UK's regulations on health and safety at work were greatly in advance of many of the other EEC member countries' which had a long way to go to catch up.

The social dimension also included a training initiative which had been agreed to in December, 1986.

On worker participation, she believed that those who got on to the board of a company would take progressive steps to the realization of monetary union and set up a group to consider that.

On the European central bank, he had said that they would take progressive steps to the realization of monetary union and set up a group to consider that.

Monetary union would be a first step and progress towards that would not necessarily involve a single currency or a European central bank. Long before European monetary union could be achieved, many other countries would have to come up to the level reached by the UK.

The UK had freedom of capital movement, which many of the others did not have. It had no exchange rate control, which most of the others did have.

It had a variety of currencies in its bank reserves, which most of the others did not have. It dealt in the Ecu, which most of the others did not. So the others had a long way to go.

Regarding the veto on zero-rating, the British Government's position had been made clear. The recent change in the law but to an explanation of the law.

The Rover and BAE matter was still under consideration.

Assuming that it went through, the subsidies from the British Government would cease, unless of course they were under regional development and that would be very much in line with what the Community would wish.

Sanctions on South Africa had not come up.



US-scale deficit 'on the cards'

If the balance of payments deficit in the second half of this year is anything like that in the first half, Britain will have an external deficit as large, in relation to its domestic product, as the American deficit had, in relation to its domestic product.

That prediction was offered to the Prime Minister by Mr Neil Kinnock (left), Leader of the Opposition, during question time.

Mr Kinnock: For a nil-rich, exporting country like ours, it shows unique incompetence by the Government. What will she do to close these balance of payments gaps?

Mrs Thatcher: The deficit is being financed by the inflow of private sector capital, showing great confidence by other manufacturers in this country as a base for effective manufacturing operations.

Mr Kinnock: If confidence is so great and the inflow so ready, why does she inflict 9.5 per cent interest rates on British industry and home buyers?

Mrs Thatcher: To keep down pressure on inflation (Conservative cheers).

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab): Five years ago, she was boasting with pleasure and pride about the balance of payments this country had and was warning us against the extreme damage high interest rates could do to our industrial production.

Now that we were running the highest deficit in our history and interest rates were increasing every week, did she look back over those five years and think that progress was being made in the British economic situation?

Mrs Thatcher: Enormous progress. With inflation down, growth up, the number of new jobs created probably up and the highest standard of living we have ever known, and the best standard of social services we have ever known, progress continues apace.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab) asked if there was a level of trade deficit at which the Government would act and would introduce measures.

Mrs Thatcher: The prime objective is to keep inflation down. To let it rise would be the very worst thing one could do to the prospects of manufacturing industry. Interest rates are one of the instruments by which one keeps inflation down. Inflation is now lower than it was at any time under the last Labour Government.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) asked her to reflect on the fact that it was not she who had a deficit of 12 points in the opinion polls. The Tories did not have a chaotic defence policy. They were returning real prosperity to the people and they were not dependent on the block votes of trade unions.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. I could not possibly put it better myself.

Jail stays the poll tax sanction

People who refuse to pay the community charge in England and Wales will still face imprisonment, while those in Scotland will not.

The Government rejected pleas in the House of Lords to decriminalize non-payers and insisted that imprisonment must be kept as the ultimate sanction against those who willfully refused to pay it.

On the second day of the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill in the Lords, a cross-party amendment to keep non-payers out of prison was defeated by 118 votes to 93 - Government majority, 20.

For the Opposition, Lord Elwyn-Jones, the former Lord Chancellor, said that in economic terms the Government's proposal made no sense and in social and moral terms, it was an abomination.

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and



Lord Elwyn-Jones: Proposal 'makes no sense'

the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders were strongly opposed to the Government's

proposal for retaining imprisonment. The sanction was not in the original Bill, but was added during its passage through the Commons. It was not in the Scottish legislation.

Imprisonment of non-payers of the community charge was an anachronism.

About 370 people were sent to prison in England and Wales last year for non-payment of rates. It was estimated that that number would rise to 1,200 under the community charge, particularly the poor, would be liable to the charge.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (SLD), a former Home Office minister, said that the idea that the Government was cheerfully contemplating making a new category of offence was astonishing. Hundreds of people were already crammed into police cells because of overcrowding in prisons.

The Earl of Caitness, Minister of State for Environment, said that the penalty should be retained as the ultimate deterrent. The amendments had nothing to do with sending people to prison. They were aimed at moving the recovery procedures from the magistrates' courts to the county courts.

Magistrates already operated the rates-recovery procedures efficiently. It was simply not possible to switch them to the county courts at the drop of a hat.

The Government accepted an amendment moved by Lord Meston (SLD) to prevent councils from selling or distributing copies of their Community charge registers. That would prevent mail order and other firms from having easy access to the lists.

However, the public would be able to inspect the registers.

East-West relations happier

East-West relations were now on a better footing than for many years, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said when opening a Commons debate on foreign affairs.

A great deal depended on the effect of Mr Gorbachov's attempts to reform the Soviet Union. This week, a drama of much potential significance was being played out in Moscow.

Thanks to glasnost and the television cameras, they could follow the proceedings of the first party conference since 1941 with a good deal more insight into party workings than usual.

They could not yet know the

outcome, but the fact that there was at least the beginning of a genuine debate was immensely encouraging. They all admired the courage and determination of Mr Gorbachov in tackling the failings of Soviet society.

But they should not believe they were witnessing a transformation to genuine democracy. This was still "the beginning of the beginning", but Mr Gorbachov was pushing in the right direction.

The watchword must be vigilance because, as Mr Gorbachov knew, his reforms still had a long way to go, in the face of well entrenched opposition, and they

were as yet far from being irreversible.

Britain must also be vigilant about its own security in the face of the continuing strength of the Soviet military machine, and the guarantor of that security was Nato.

The Government had been consistent and steadfast of purpose, while Labour MPs must be listening to the radio, watching television and scanning the newspapers from day to day in the hope of finding out what their own defence policy actually was - sometimes in the hope of finding out who their own defence spokesman was.

Try Heath law, Hume suggests

The Prime Minister was urged at question time to use legislation negotiated by Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, to try in Northern Ireland suspected criminals resident there rather than applying to Dublin for their extradition.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) asked whether she was aware of the Common Law Jurisdiction Act negotiated by Mr Heath in 1974 with the Irish Government.

Why did her Government not use these facilities, which were just as effective in achieving the same objectives as extradition?

Mrs Thatcher said that it was because of a very different proposition from what Mr Hume had said.

Northern Ireland questions Hint of police announcement

ULSTER

The Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, Sir John Hermon, might make an announcement soon in respect of recommendations made by Mr Charles Kelly into the Stalker-Sampson affair.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said at questions (Mr Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, reported on possible disciplinary action against members of the RUC).

He entirely agreed with Mr Jerry Hayes (Harlow, C), who said that Wednesday's vote (when members of the police authority voted by a majority of one to clear Sir John and two of his most senior staff of any disciplinary offence) had not helped morale in the RUC. The whole issue should be put out of the way as quickly as possible.

Mr King said that it was desirable that these matters were finally resolved and if

ULSTER

disciplinary charges were to be preferred that this should be dealt with. There might be an announcement very soon from Sir John.

Earlier, Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said that any suggestion that the security forces operated outside the law undermined their legitimacy.

Would Mr King therefore investigate a statement by the RUC that it had decided neither to question nor charge Mr R. Jackson, a "loyalist" paramilitary who was involved in the murder of Mr William Strathairne using a gun supplied by members of the RUC currently serving life imprisonment for their part in the crime.

Magistrates 'will be put in fear'

Magistrates in district courts in the Irish Republic would be put in the greatest fear as a consequence of granting extradition orders against members of the IRA, Mr David Allen, SLD spokesman on Northern Ireland, said during Commons question time.

Would the Secretary of State not therefore welcome the recent decision by the Dail that such cases should be dealt with in the High Court?

He also asked whether there had been discussions with the Irish Government as to why Patrick McVeigh, the suspected IRA terrorist, had not been kept in custody once it was discovered that the necessary identification was not on hand during extradition proceedings at the Portlaoise district court?

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that there had been discussions with Irish ministers about the McVeigh case and it was clear that the Irish Government was greatly concerned.

Control on food labels 'by law'

The Government may have to legislate to control manufacturers' claims about the nutritional value of certain foods, Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, said in a written reply.

The Food Advisory Committee, he said, had concluded that there was need for controls and its advice would be sent to interests concerned, to seek their views on a legislative approach and on particular recommendations.

The FAC had concluded that it might be sensible for controls to be drawn up along the lines of existing claims provisions in the Food Labelling Regulations which already covered certain nutrients such as protein, polysaturateds, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

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Parliament today

Commans (9.30): Debate on White Paper on fair employment in Northern Ireland.

Lords (11): Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order and Appropriation (No 2) (Northern Ireland) Order.

Terrorists are getting more weapons, King tells the House

Part of the following report of a Commons debate on Northern Ireland appeared in later editions yesterday.

Additional sources of weapons had come into the hands of evil men on both extremes in Northern Ireland. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when he opened a debate on a Northern Ireland order.

He said that the additional sources of weapons had a capability well in excess of anything seen in previous years.

It was of the greatest importance that these arms shipments now believed to be in the island of Ireland should be recovered as quickly as possible.

It was the fourteenth occasion on which the draft Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order had been moved.

Of all the years of violence in the province, this past year had been marked by a peculiar awfulness in some of the atrocities. The terrorists had no inhibitions.

The blind hatred of the people who were willing to cause death and suffering to the children,

ULSTER

who seek to take power in Ireland, striving to reach their objective over the bodies of their fellow citizens and wading through the blood of grievously injured children."



The thrust of his discussions with the parties to date had been to seek methods towards devolution. Lasting agreement on devolution was difficult to achieve. It required adjustments on the part of everyone.

He continued to believe that movement towards devolution would best serve the interests of the people of Northern Ireland.

With every year of direct rule it became clearer that elected representatives of the province lacked adequate opportunity to participate in and take decisions on the future of Northern Ireland. A devolved legislative assembly would offer the people of Northern Ireland control over their local services.

His talks with the parties had confirmed that devolution was the form of government most likely to have widespread acceptance and support in the community.

It was no good political

leaders criticizing sectarianism on the streets when all too often the main political parties appeared to be trapped within its confines and were not seen to be giving any leadership in working constructively with the other tradition.

The next positive step was for the political parties to start talking about these things with the Government. With the benefit of bilateral exploratory discussions behind them, they should now be making further realistic and sustained progress.

The next step was inter-party dialogue about the future arrangements for government in Northern Ireland.

Politicians in Northern Ireland had no difficulty in finding obstacles to any course of action. He urged MPs to begin the dialogue in the Commons and make a constructive contribution. Instead of identifying obstacles, they should build bridges.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the report of the Northern Ireland police authority was amazing.

By a majority of one it had

concluded that it was not necessary to appoint an investigating officer to inquire further into Mr Sampson's observations, and that no disciplinary action needed to be taken. This was the most extraordinary situation. It was scarcely a unanimous vote of confidence in the three senior police officers.

That vote would do nothing to restore confidence. If the three senior officers got off without even an inquiry by a majority, it would look very unfair if strong disciplinary charges were preferred lower down the line.

If there were going to be two standards in this matter it would not be well for the general opinion of law in Northern Ireland.

A proper judicial inquiry into the matter was needed. Britain would face widespread, sustained national and international criticism.

The Opposition had not changed its mind. The killings in Armagh and the procedures which followed would not go away but would continue to haunt the Government and undermine confidence in the

security forces and demonstrate the Government's spurious claim to adhere to the rule of law.

Labour would continue to support the Anglo-Irish agreement until there was something better, wider and more concrete. Both governments should use the intergovernmental review to encourage Unionists to come in out of the cold and have their say.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that for 14 years Northern Ireland had been subject to quasi-colonial rule by mainland ministers. He was disturbed, dismayed and dispirited by Mr King's insistence on a devolved government as distinct from a devolved administration.

He wished the Government would not proceed with policies and aims that separated Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom.

The Government should get out of the rut of Northern Irish politics and get them into the mainstream of British politics so that left and right could replace orange and green as had happened in the mainland cities of Irish settlement.

The Rev William McCrea (Mid Ulster, DUP) said that the Prime Minister had said that Northern Ireland was as British as Finchley, but he did not know of any joint agreement with a foreign power to run the affairs of Finchley.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) said that his party was willing at any stage without precondition to enter into dialogue with the Unionists and the IRA.

"It is about time that we at least started talking about how we live together because there is nothing to lost by that."

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast East, DUP) said that the dialogue between the SDLP and Sinn Fein was a barrier to progress. The Unionists could not be part of any dialogue with the SDLP while the SDLP was talking to Sinn Fein because, if they did so, the SDLP would be seen as intermeddling between the Unionists and the IRA.

The SDLP should end its flirtation with the IRA and start constructive dialogue with the constitutional parties.

The order was approved by 133 votes to 16 votes - Government majority, 117.

British hope for Thyssen pictures

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the "unique and valuable" Thyssen Collection might find a permanent home in Britain.

Speaking during question time, Mrs Thatcher said: Certain proposals have been made. It is for the trustees of the collection to decide whether that is acceptable. A number of other countries have made proposals and it is for the trustees to make the final decision.

She had been urged by Mr Alastair Goodlad (Edinburgh, C) to seek to persuade Baron Thyssen and the trustees of his art collection to consider seriously the development at Battersea.

Letters, page 15

County Hall move rejected

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) failed to get an emergency debate on the decision by the London Residuary Board to dispose of County Hall, home of the former Greater London Council, for use as a luxury hotel.

He said that he could detect in the decision the malevolent influence of the Prime Minister who had made clear that she required all evidence of the GLC to be removed.

Questions plan refused

A suggestion that an additional Scottish question time should be held in Scotland, made by Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Slay, SLD), was rejected by Mrs Thatcher at the Prime Minister's question time.

Mr Kennedy had asked her to consult the Leader of the House (Mr John Wakeham), without commitment, about holding an additional question time for Scots in the Old Royal High School, in Edinburgh.

Westland assurance

The possibility of Fiat selling its holding in Westland to United Technologies Corporation in no way affects the Ministry of Defence contracts with Westland, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons said in reply to Mr Tom Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) during questions about forthcoming business.

Magistrates already operated the rates-recovery procedures efficiently. It was simply not possible to switch them to the county courts at the drop of a hat.

The Government accepted an amendment moved by Lord Meston (SLD) to prevent councils from selling or distributing copies of their Community charge registers. That would prevent mail order and other firms from having easy access to the lists.

However, the public would be able to inspect the registers.

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Advertisement for Cadillacs, featuring the word 'Cadill' and 'ERRAT Comput on the'.

SPECTRUM

Cadbury's appealing flavour

After the takeover of Rowntree, Cadbury is the next household name on the lips of the City brokers.

Bryan Appleyard assesses its chances in the lucrative chocolate wars

Every Boxing Day they gather at Winds Point in the Malvern Hills. In a curious family ritual, as many as 100 Cadburys assemble in a house that once - "The Swedish Nightingale" - but which she sold to Cadbury, the man mainly responsible for the creation of the chocolate empire.

Unless Sir Adrian and Dominic Cadbury, George's grandsons, turn up, there will be no talk of chocolate or fizzy drinks: in spite of the fact that the family name is almost instantly evocative of purple foil and all the sinful delights of milk chocolate, the average Cadbury has little or nothing to do with the business.

Yet, somehow, the image of Cadbury Schweppes as a family company persists. And now that Rowntree Mackintosh has fallen to the Swiss, it is not the sort of image the company likes to have.

That's a very superficial view just because Suchard failed to get Rowntree, they will go for Cadbury. Dominic Cadbury says, "Rowntree was a key portfolio of brands for both Suchard and Nestlé. We're quite a different proposition. We talk to Suchard from time to time. We've got ambitions, they've got ambitions, they may or may not come together."

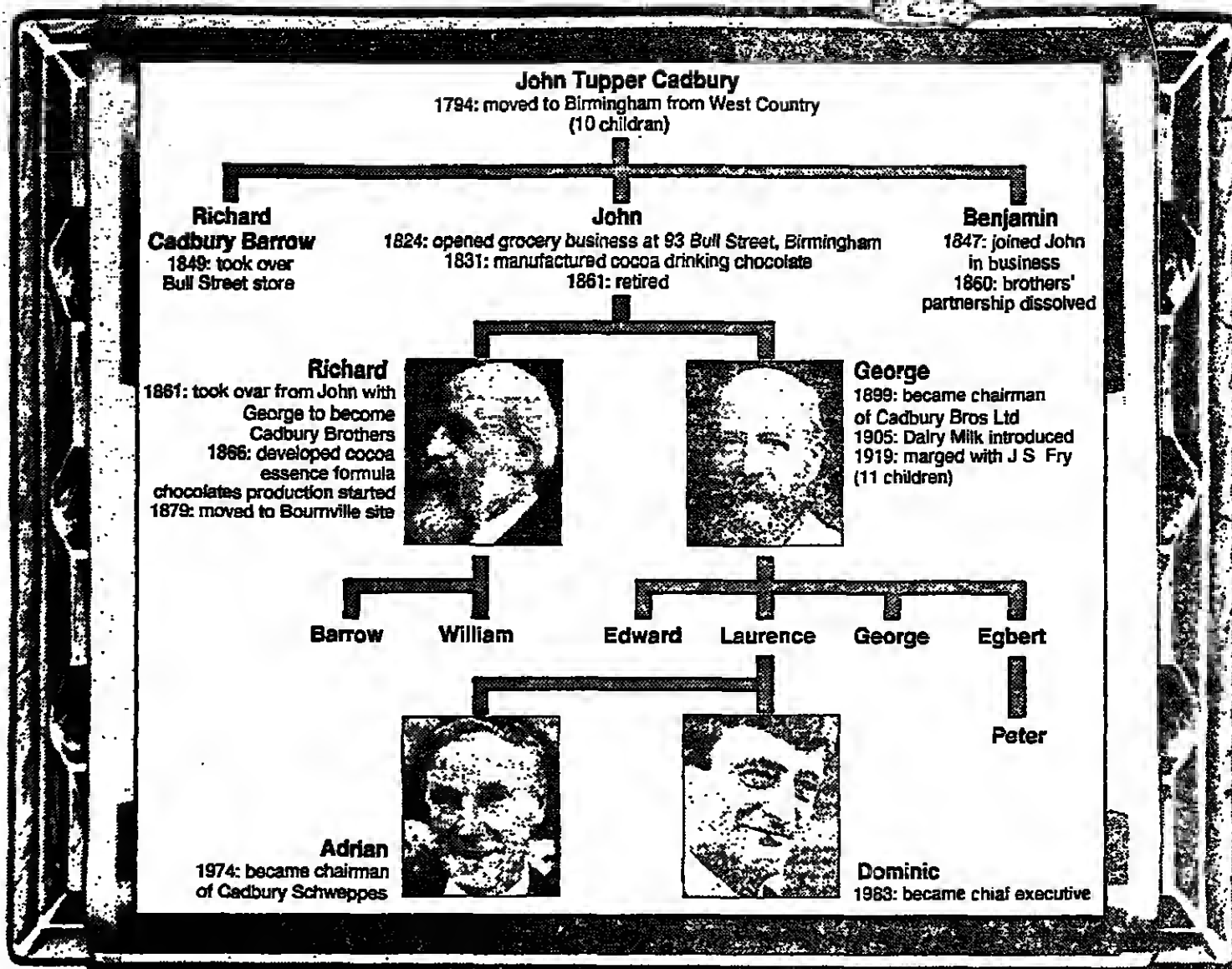
The City would argue that Cadbury also has its brands - notably Flake, Wispa and Milk Tray. The Rowntree affair has concentrated the minds of analysts on just how valuable such names can be. It costs £10 million in the first year to launch a new chocolate or confectionery line and, if it succeeds, it can go on earning profits forever.

But at least this means Cadbury Schweppes is being more favourably valued. A couple of years ago there were takeover rumours and the expected price was £1 billion. Now the company could hardly go for less than £3 billion.

Dominic is the latest fruit of the family tree that has created this empire, and he is proving one of the most effective. The company was started by John Cadbury, a Quaker, as a tea and coffee merchant in Bull Street, Birmingham in 1824. Under John's sons, George and Richard, it became a chocolate manufacturer. Richard died relatively young, but George went on to establish Bourneville, a model company village centred on the factory. Bourne was a local name and "ville" was taken from the French - in the late 19th century most good chocolate came from France so the name was a marketing device.

George married twice and had 11 children. He is thus the main reason for the phenomenal number of Cadburys who turn up annually at Winds Hill. After his death in 1922, his offspring provided a steady stream of the company's directors. Laurence, for example, was chairman from just after the Second World War to the end of the Fifties, and he was the father of Adrian and Dominic.

So, at least until the Sixties, the succession was unashamedly dynastic. But the family ties began to weaken in 1962 when the company went public, and the crunch



finally came in 1969 when Cadbury merged with Schweppes. The move had a symbolic as well as a financial significance. Schweppes products are generally mixed with alcohol - a drug snubbed by the Cadburys' Quaker forebears.

Prior to that deal, 50 per cent of the shares were in family hands and half the board were Cadburys. Afterwards the Cadburys, enriched by the deal and freed from the old family yoke, went their separate ways, leaving Adrian as the primary family representative in the com-

pany. He has been chairman of the enlarged group since 1974. "He's more of an intellectual than me," Dominic says. "I'm more action and performance oriented." He denies rumours of a rift between the two of them fiercely: "Absolutely not!"

Dominic himself rose through the ranks to become chief executive in 1983. Inside the company there were worries that his focus was too narrow for the task, though there does not seem to have been any resentful muttering about nepotism. In the event, he appears, so far, to have got it spectacularly right.

He came to power after a long period of company problems. In the mid-Seventies business had gone badly wrong. A five-year management and financial restructuring plan worked for a time but, in 1982, profitability slumped. The company was suddenly seen to be old-fashioned and out of its depth in the world market.

Dominic arrived with American business school training and a management style based on a team. In the past paternalism had been accompanied by a highly autocratic, centralized style. He took the company out of foods, tea

and household products (Jeyes fluid, Smash and Typhoo were sold off) and concentrated on fizzy drinks and chocolate. With Coca-Cola he negotiated a deal to bottle the drink in Britain - a deal now described by one analyst as "an absolute beauty".

His tenure began with an horrific profits slump from £124 million to £93 million in 1985, but the figure has since climbed to £176 million and forecasts for this year are running at £210 million. During all this, he presided over the launch of the Wispa bar, a 350-calorie chunk of bubble-filled chocolate that represents one of

the most spectacular marketing coups in recent years. Where once Rowntree had been regarded as the best performing chocolate company, suddenly Cadbury was the one the City liked.

"The fundamental difference between us and Rowntree is that in 1969 we made the decision to diversify in a big way," Dominic says. He is reluctant to attack his old rival "now they have gone", but he does believe that they made a mistake in sticking too closely to the old confectionery business and keeping the head office in York. With the Schweppes deal the Cadbury HQ moved to Marlow Arch.

Dominic, meanwhile, is trying to avoid the rows about whether the Government should have let Rowntree be taken over. "I don't want to get knotted up with all these arguments. Our salvation depends entirely on our performance here. The international company playing field is not a level one. But, to be realistic, the Government is not going to be concerned unless a company of the magnitude of BP is involved."

He also grows impatient at the sheer weight of attention to which his company is subjected. If Cadbury made widgets, he points out, rather than Wispa bars, it simply would not make as many headlines.

Nevertheless the American company General Cinema is waiting in the wings with 18 per cent of Cadbury Schweppes shares and, of course, Suchard is on the loose. General Cinema is thought to be interested in the drinks side of the company - though it could equally well simply be speculating in the shares in the hope of a bid from somebody else. Klaus Jacobs, chairman of Suchard and an old friend of Dominic's, has a £200 million profit from his dealings in Rowntree plus a clear desire to make a big bid. Cadbury is an obvious target.

So John Cadbury's sweet and fizzy legacy is unquestionably threatened with a possible takeover. The consolation for the now widely dispersed dynasty would be that Boxing Day at Winds Hill would almost certainly continue undisturbed.

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Computer win on the farm



Sheer fun of the chase: Erratum prizewinner Patricia Bland

Patricia Bland, a 62-year-old farmer's wife from Wainborough, near Swindon, is one of 15 winners of *The Times* Erratum competition, which attracted more than 20,000 entries (Alan Franks writes). She and her fellow winners will each receive a Z88 portable personal computer made by Cambridge Computer Ltd. Mrs Bland, who recently completed an Open University course, entered because of "the sheer fun of looking things up and finding out new information". The books she had amassed as an OU student meant that she did not need to venture beyond the farmhouse in pursuit of reference. Like other contestants, however, she was stumped by the physics question on Day 11. Day Two also troubled a number of competitors: "hungred" rather than the correct "an hungred" was frequently offered.

Mrs Bland's triumph means that she will live in a two-computer household, since they already have one to handle the farm accounts and management reports. "I shall definitely be keeping this one for my own use," she says. The other winners are: Mrs P. Kennedy of Kidlington, Oxford; Mr M. Thornbury of south west London; Mr Roland Hill of York; Mr O. Moss of Harpsden, Oxfordshire; Mr Christian Lean of Ashford, Kent; Mr S. Stuart of New Moston, Manchester; Mrs A. Wild of Sonning, Berkshire; Mr R. Marshall of Northwood, Middlesex; Carol Atkinson of Broadstairs, Kent; Mr Peter Robinson of Moffat, Dumfriesshire; Mr E. Barton of Doncaster, Yorkshire; Dr John Wedgwood of south west London; Mr Dennis Grant of Huckle Cote, Gloucestershire; and Mrs M. Brooking Clark of Wells, Somerset.

The answers

DAY ONE: The quotation was from *Macbeth* (Act 1). It should have read "sticking-plaice", not "sticking-point". DAY TWO: The quotation was from Matthew, chapter 25 (King James's version). It should have read "an hungred", not "hungry". DAY THREE: There are six Brandenburg Concertos, not eight. DAY FOUR: The man who shares the record with Bjorn Borg is Laurence (H.L.) Doherty, not Fred Perry. DAY FIVE: Our reproduction of the painting - the Rokeby Venus, by Velasquez - was a mirror-image. DAY SIX: The 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing will be on July 21, 1989, not July 16. DAY SEVEN: The third *Fury* is *Megara*, not Erato. DAY EIGHT: The "invisible hand" was proposed by Adam Smith, not Benjamin Franklin.

DAY NINE: The volume of a gas is inversely proportional, not proportional, (Boyle's Law). DAY 10: The quotation was the first sentence of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. It should have read "good" not "large". DAY 11: 98 is not a magic number. DAY 12: The poem should have read "Daddy", not "Mother" (from Ted Hughes's "Crow"). DAY 13: The deliberate mistake was "Powry". His correct name was "Perry". DAY 14: The extract, from Sir John Betjeman's "A Subaltern's Love-song", is correctly "Furnish's and burnshed", not "Burnish'd and furnis'h'd". DAY 15: The quotation is the first paragraph of *Through the Looking Glass And What Alice Found There*, by Lewis Carroll. It should have read "certain", not "sure".

If you want a good seat in the Wimbledon Centre Court this afternoon, it will cost at least £350 from any one of the dozens of instant ticket agencies that spring up at this time of year and which then disappear at the end of a lucrative fortnight.

But not all of these tiny peddlers (touts or brokers, depending on your point of view) fade away with the last applause from the All England Club. For example, had you been sufficiently addicted to boxing to pay £1,200 for 90 seconds of heavyweight action on Monday, you could have got a ticket (travel included) for Tyson-Spink at Madison Square Gardens.

One party of four British boxing fans paid nearly £5,000 to one of the more established

It isn't only at Wimbledon that touts flourish - they can get you into anything

The long hot-ticket summer

small agencies which specialise in Wimbledon, but which will gladly try to fix you a ticket for anything. The Big Ticket package was a one-off deal made in response to a specific request. Nor was it particularly marked up (probably not more than 15 per cent) as the agency itself had to lay out well over the box office rate to get the tickets. This agency, owned by Paul Eden, has been operating successfully from two London telephone numbers, one for daytime and one for evenings,

for more than two years. It will take orders for virtually any event from cricket (£50 for the fourth day of the Lord's Test) to the Earl's Court *Aida* (£40 two weeks ago, rising to £75 by the end of last week). Another agency, whose continuing lines include *The Phantom of the Opera* (£55) and *Les Misérables* (nothing cheaper than £20), offers Chelsea Flower Show tickets for about £100; yet another expects a brisk trade both for the Berkeley Square Ball (probably £200) and Henley

(about half that). Obtainables Lid vaunts the standard range of sport and rock, but is ready to branch out whenever there is a demand. "We had some one after tickets for the Munich Opera Festival," said its spokesman. "We could have done it for him, but would it have been worth the time and trouble? I don't mean for us, but for him." "It would have meant me getting on the plane and going over to Munich myself and buying the tickets, probably quite expensively, and all that

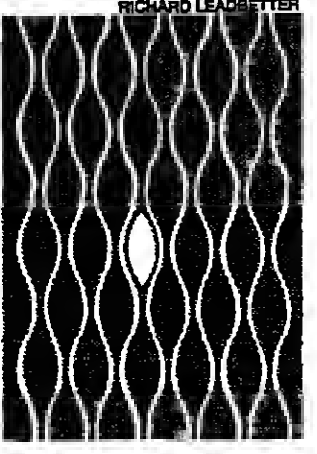
would then have to be reflected in the price." Touts received a much-publicized fillip from Conservative MP Teresa Gorman recently, when she praised them for their spirit of enterprise. Her remarks found no favour, however, with Nicholas Blackburn, director of ticketing at one of London's largest ticket agencies, Keith Prowse. "These people are only interested in the hot tickets". He explained: "The analogy I always take is of a taxi driver.

If it's Friday night and you want to take a cab to Hampstead and the driver says that'll be £50, you'd be furious. But they can't do that because of the terms of their licence. There should be some similar mechanism to govern the activities of people selling tickets. I think that tourists are becoming increasingly angry with London. They really want to see a show, but they know prices are inflated." The small agencies do not agree. "When you think about it, it's members of the public with tickets who are the biggest winners. If someone has a £20 seat for the men's finals, they can sell it for up to £450. Their percentage profit is many, many times greater than ours." Alan Franks

SCIENCE REPORT

Muscular dystrophy work races ahead

Another important step forward in the understanding of muscular dystrophy, described in the latest edition of *Nature*, has been taken with the location of the site where diseased muscle cells differ from healthy muscle cells. Building on research in the past two years, which has revealed the genetic basis of Duchenne and Becker's muscular dystrophy, three independent research groups have now been able to show the precise consequences of defective genes. This brings effective therapy closer. Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal wasting disease, attacks one boy in every 4,000. Sufferers are confined to a wheelchair by 12 and usually die by 20 or 30. Becker's muscular dystrophy is much less common and not lethal. Both types of the disease can cause mental retardation.



Richard Leadbetter

Kahn and colleagues at the French medical research institute, Inserm, show that dystrophin is normally also present in the brain and other tissues of the body, although only in tiny quantities. They report, also in *Nature*, that its absence in dystrophic patients could explain the mental retardation of some patients. The pace of research in this field is breathtaking. The gene implicated in muscular dystrophy was identified just two years ago. Since then the protein molecule encoded by the gene has been predicted and identified, and, oow, its location in normal cells discovered.

to show that the protein is present in normal but not diseased muscle, and now to indicate precisely where it is located.

Among other things, Kunkel's group finds that dystrophin accounts for only 0.002 per cent of the protein content of normal muscle, which explains why it had been impossible to tell the cause of muscular dystrophy before the gene had been identified. The finding that dystrophin is attached to the sarcolemma also provides an intuitive explanation for what goes wrong in muscular dystrophy. Normally, the shape of muscle cells is maintained by a scaffold of protein molecules anchored to the membrane by dystrophin.

But in cells which lack dystrophin, repeated contractions of the muscle will tear the membrane, eventually killing the cell.

Although there is no direct evidence to support this idea, dystrophin appears to resemble other proteins which act as membrane anchors. Some researchers are now turning their attention to mice with a defect similar to Duchenne muscular dystrophy, also involving a lack of dystrophin in muscle fibres, but in which there are no symptoms of disease.

One hope is that the explanation for this difference may yet provide pointers to therapy for human victims of the disease. Kunkel and no fewer than 75 collaborators were the first to identify the gene, which is located on the X chromosome. It is the largest human gene known. Last year, Kunkel's own group identified the product of this gene by making it synthesize in the laboratory. They have now used an antibody against dystrophin, first

Maxine Clarke © Nature-Times News Service 1988

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TIMES DIARY MARTIN FLETCHER

A particular cause of Neil Kinnock's despondency last week was the astonishing attack by Ron Todd, head of the TGWU, in Northern Ireland...

I am now told, however, that Kinnock's dismay was nothing compared to Todd's, for the speech had not been meant as an attack on Kinnock at all...

If you ever doubted the whips' power of political patronage, witness the fate of Tory MP John Butterfill's amendment to the Finance Bill on Wednesday night...

BARRY FANTONI



'I didn't know we had any left'

For the first time in years, Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, will not be contributing any of his distinguished watercolours to the annual Lords and Commons art exhibition...

British Telecom can pull its finger out when it wants to. Especially when a contract to televise the Commons is at stake. On Monday evening its senior executives appeared before the committee of MPs charged with setting up the television experiment...

Still on Commons committees, I hear that a recent leak to this newspaper of a highly-sensitive Environment select committee report demanding government action on acid rain and air pollution has caused all sorts of reactions...

The knives are out for Lord Amphil. As head of the Lords Refreshment committee he came in for a lot of flak over the recent salmonella outbreak which laid low 50 peers...

So confident were they that the sitting would collapse in the early hours that they had sent the catering staff home without a second thought.

Twenty years ago today, in ceremonies in London, Moscow and Washington, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed.

Proliferation of nuclear weapons has proceeded far more slowly than pessimists feared - few would have dared to predict in 1968 that 20 years later there would still be only five fully paid-up and practising members of the nuclear club.

Like all treaties, the NPT represented a deal. Crudely summarized, the nuclear-weapon states undertook not to transfer nuclear weapons to any other recipient...

The challenges all involve states locked in regional conflicts - most notably in the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent. There is no doubt that Israel has nuclear weapons (but it has apparently not felt it prudent to test or flaunt them).

In an interview with The Times Mr Lawson stressed the quantum leap in the performance of the British economy while yielding little to his detractors. During the nine years in which he had been associated with the Government's economic policy...

Asked if the growing trade deficit required some reining back of demand to restrain imports Mr Lawson poured scorn on the idea that the Budget tax cuts were too large or that fiscal policy should be even tighter than it already is.

The Chancellor does concede, however, that "as I've made clear the economy has been growing at an unsustainably rapid rate and needs to slow down a bit. That can be achieved without any drama."

One reason why consumer demand is so strong and imports so high is that people are saving less. Higher interest rates will encourage them to save more and spend less.

Neil Kinnock's speech to the National Union of Mineworkers on Wednesday was billed as being the beginning of the big fight back. It was to be the day when Arthur Scargill would get his come-uppance.

Neil changed his mind, as is his wont. Perhaps he lost his bottle at the last minute. Or perhaps he realized that he did not have a convincing and coherent alternative political philosophy to offer the assembled delegates.

Even Roy Hattersley had been more direct earlier in the week. He had at least been blunt. "We must pull ourselves together... and steer a straight course."

They might even suggest that Hattersley and his colleagues had over half a decade to pull the party together and steer a straight course. Some might even be tempted to point out that the leadership itself is not entirely to be exonerated from all blame for the confusion and disarray in which the party currently finds itself.

Adam Roberts lauds a peaceful treaty of self-denial

Hypocritical—but it works

such as Pakistan, South Africa, Chile and Brazil, which have not become parties.

So far these countries have all preferred to develop an ambiguous nuclear status to an open one but there will undoubtedly be further nuclear proliferation.

Like all treaties, the NPT represented a deal. Crudely summarized, the nuclear-weapon states undertook not to transfer nuclear weapons to any other recipient.

The new nuclear powers of the 1960s, France and China, refused to subscribe to such a conspiracy of the "haves" against the "have-nots".

the parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Moreover, all the parties undertook "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..."

To many, these arrangements were and remain illogical and hypocritical. The spectacle of the three principal nuclear powers working together to prevent other countries acquiring nuclear weapons was compared to alcoholics preaching abstinence.

Generally acted as if they were parties to the treaty. Some nuclear powers, especially the US and Britain, praised the beneficial effects of deterrence so highly that it was hard not to conclude that everyone should have it.

not to tempt an adversary into a pre-emptive attack, and they had to be continuously maintained by expert staff in expensive facilities.

The US government had long been worried that nuclear proliferation among its allies would reduce its chances of being able to control international crises effectively.

In addition, there was a more general sense, whose unpleasant overtones were not lost on the Third World, that it was one thing for stable, long-established and technically advanced countries to have nuclear weapons; it would be quite another thing for new states whose regimes lacked legitimacy and whose frontiers were the subject of disputes.

The NPT is not just in the best interests of a few nuclear powers wanting to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. There is the often overlooked point that non-nuclear states consider it very much in their own interests to preserve this status.

Interview: Nigel Lawson

A nation of inheritors



accounts of the major industrial countries should always be in balance. A deficit is of concern when it reflects some underlying malaise in the economy.

"The tightening of interest rates is not a direct response to the trade gap at all," he says. "It is a judgement that, taking all things into consideration, there needs to be some monetary tightening."

Will it work and does it in some respects hit the wrong target? Will industrialists be deterred from investment while mortgage holders, seeing their properties leaping in value, go on spending and borrowing with abandon?

Mr Lawson argues that, as with savings, a high level of confidence is part of the trade balance problem. Capital imports by businesses wanting the best equipment available in the world are up by 19 per cent over the past year.

He argues that little industrial investment is financed by bank overdraft, coming instead from retained profits, equity issues and long-term borrowing.

The tensions of the British relationship within Europe are revealed when he says: "Within Europe there have been two different visions—the vision of a deregulated, liberalized Europe which has been ours and of a bureaucratic, harmonized, regulated Europe which has been that of some others."

Can Britain continue to pay lip service to the ideals of a Single European Market in 1992 without accepting at least some degree of harmonization on VAT? Yes, says the Chancellor. "We can have a genuine single market without VAT harmonization. If you talk to businessmen about all the obstacles in Europe the thing they never complain about is different rates of VAT. It's not a problem. In each country it's the same rate whether it is applied to an indigenous product or an imported one."

But with all the talk of a beckoning life in the City does a third career appeal to this past journalist and present politician? "I don't know. I don't even know what it would be. Obviously I won't do this job for ever but at what point I should stop I don't know. Anyway, it's not entirely a matter for me."

His other aim is to change society "so that we have a nation of people who genuinely feel they have a stake in the country and entrenching that". What he wants is progress "from a property-owning democracy to a nation of inheritors so that the spread of ownership goes on widely from generation to generation".

If Mr Lawson has a mind to carry his tax reforms further the major changes are more likely to be on the taxation of savings than on indirect taxes. "The taxation of savings is the one area which has not been comprehensively reformed," he says. "I gave an undertaking that if there were to be a fundamental reform there would be a green paper first and that still stands."

What, finally, of the Chancellor's own future? Asked about his political objectives outside the economic sphere, Mr Lawson comes back to the question of Britain's standing in the world and to his pride at having played a part in reversing the fatalistic acceptance at the time the Tories came to office that further national decline was inevitable. "One reason I went into politics was to play a part in arresting that... Restoration of the nation's morale—morale based on achievement and not on empty rhetoric—is a major objective."

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That concern with national standing does nothing to detract from the view that Mr Lawson would like the Foreign Office if it should become vacant. But if there were a vacancy too at No 10 would that tempt him, or is there any other job in politics which appeals?

The Chancellor replied carefully that his present job has given him much satisfaction, seeing his own and his predecessor's policies carried through. And he adds: "I have no ambition to be prime minister."

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Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Straight course to where?

Neil Kinnock's speech to the National Union of Mineworkers on Wednesday was billed as being the beginning of the big fight back. It was to be the day when Arthur Scargill would get his come-uppance. It didn't exactly work out like that. Perhaps Neil changed his mind, as is his wont. Perhaps he lost his bottle at the last minute. Or perhaps he realized that he did not have a convincing and coherent alternative political philosophy to offer the assembled delegates.

Even Roy Hattersley had been more direct earlier in the week. He had at least been blunt. "We must pull ourselves together... and steer a straight course."

They might even suggest that Hattersley and his colleagues had over half a decade to pull the party together and steer a straight course. Some might even be tempted to point out that the leadership itself is not entirely to be exonerated from all blame for the confusion and disarray in which the party currently finds itself.

The two leaders have shown too easy a propensity to change their minds. Neither has been forceful and direct in espousing particular values and policies. You can't readily identify either with a political stance as you can Mrs Thatcher, Michael Heseltine or David Owen. All these are seen to stand for something; the former represent weakness and vacillation. Had Neil and Hattersley been more honest and open in their advocacy of the values of social democracy then it is possible that Labour would not be in its present turmoil and again indulging in an orgy of recrimination and backstabbing.

After all, what is this "straight course" that everyone is supposed to follow? It's an easy enough phrase to use. There's a difficulty about asking the troops to fall into line. Some of the poor bloody infantry who have suffered enough in the trenches laid waste by Thatcherism would be happy to oblige if only they knew what they were being drilled for, and where they were supposed to be going. But they don't. None of us do. Not only is there no settled policy but there is also no sense of direction.

Neil knows. That's for certain. The problem with him is that the height and limit of his ambition is to get into No 10. It's the personal drive that causes him to be so impatient, so authoritarian, and so ruthless with his friends. It's why the Labour Party's policies are dispensable. The difficulty for him is that he somehow has to square this naked drive for power with an unpopular socialist ideology. It can't be done. It's when he tries to reconcile the two that he begins to look weak or shifty, and usually both. This is precisely the predicament he is in with his defence policy.

The result is a kind of political schizophrenia for him and dismay and confusion for his supporters. You don't need the headlines and the capitalist press to point out the inconsistencies. There's always a comrade at hand to point it out and stir it up, to shout "betrayal". A Scargill, a Benn and a Heffer are waiting to pounce on every perceived deviation from socialist orthodoxy. It makes life very difficult for a Labour leader trying to win power. But it has to be said that the Scargills, the Benns and the Heffers are sincere and consistent. We may detest what they stand for but there's no doubting their belief. They are specific and clear.

Neil moved fast at the NUM conference to disavow Scargill's tribute to the "spirit and courage" of Russell Shankland and Dean Hancock, sentenced to life imprisonment for killing David Wilkins during the 1985 coal strike. It was, Neil said, "disgusting". So it was. He also insisted on the priority of the review of party policy. But this belated attempt to assert his leadership won't work. It misses the point.

It's no good at all for Neil and Hattersley to keep cracking the whip and calling for unity. They also have to show they believe in something. The uncomfortable fact is that Scargill is not a one-man band. He speaks for a significant number in the party. His vision of socialism appeals to many. It is supported by Benn, Heffer and members of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs. It captures the imagination of activists like those who chanted "scab" at Neil in Liverpool this week. Scargill cannot be dismissed as a failed rabble rouser. If he can, there are a lot more who would also have to be discounted, and Labour hasn't exactly got a surfeit of members to play with.

Neil doesn't have much time to get it right before the next election. The best thing that he could do now would be to make a clean break and confess that the course he wants to follow is one that would take him towards social democratic welfareism endorsed by most decent members of the party. It's difficult, I know, for him to have to admit now that he and all the best in the PLP actually subscribe to principles and values that are espoused by David Owen and Shirley Williams. But there lies the future. When it comes to choosing between linking arms with them or joining hands with the likes of Scargill there's really no choice.

JULY 1 ON THIS DAY 1922

The Irish Free State made an inauspicious start as Republican objections to the terms of the agreement boiled over into fighting between the Irregulars, led by "Harry" O'Connor, and troops.

RORY O'CONNOR A PRISONER

DUBLIN — At the present moment O'Connor is still holding out in the Four Courts, and the back portion of the building, in the basements of which he has taken refuge, is being slowly and methodically bombed.

North of the river, firing is fairly brisk. As I came across the river I met several armoured cars and heavy loads of Government troops, as it is clear that an attack will soon be developed upon Moran's Hotel and other buildings occupied by the Irregulars round about Talbot-street. The Irregulars are still in possession of a considerable number of buildings throughout the city, and the task of sweeping them clear will take some time.

1.30 PM — The fall of the Four Courts is now imminent. Soon after midday a fire broke out in the eastern wing, and large volumes of smoke were carried over the city by the strong westerly wind. A few minutes later there was a terrific explosion, which shattered all the windows, including heavy shop plate-glass windows, within a large radius. It is reported that fragments of records were flung

into the Liffey as far as three miles away. 2.30 PM — O'Connor has just asked for a truce. This was arranged during a lull in the firing, in order to permit doctors to enter the building.

4.30 PM — The Provisional Government officially announces that the Irregulars in the Four Courts have hoisted the white flag and have surrendered.

The men, about 130 or 150 in number, were at first marched out of the building with their hands up under a strong military guard, and were then lined up on the quays. They were afterwards taken off on foot in the direction of Mountjoy Prison, where they will be interned pending a decision as to their fate. Many of them were mere boys.

Fighting is going on fairly briskly in the northern half of the city, and it is pretty obvious that unless their opponents surrender the Government have still a harassing task before them. The Irregulars continue their policy of seizing houses in various quarters of the city, and have now occupied the Gresham Hotel. All this quarter is particularly lively today and there has been some firing from time to time in Farnell-square.

A British military lorry which had made its way along O'Connell-street was sniped at from an hotel in Talbot-street occupied by the Irregulars. The lorry was promptly halted, and a single soldier, quietly jumping down, gave the building a burst of machine-gun fire, and coolly clambered back into the lorry. It is impossible to give a complete picture of all the isolated fighting that is going on.



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BRIDGE BETWEEN PILLARS

Britain starts a one-year term as President of the Western European Union today at one of the most challenging times in the organization's history. As the United States prepares to elect a new President and the Soviet Union enters what promises to be a period of profound change, Western Europe is slowly moving centre-stage.

These new winds are nowhere felt more keenly than in Brussels, where Herr Manfred Wörner, former defence minister of the Federal Republic, also takes a new job today — succeeding Lord Carrington as General Secretary of Nato and becoming the first West German ever to hold that post. After shepherding the Alliance through four eventful years, Lord Carrington was strongly critical of Nato's structural inadequacies in an interview with *The Times* this week. Now it is Herr Wörner who inherits the task of drilling 16 member nations into line at a time of rapid diplomatic and political movement.

While all chances of improving the political climate must be seized (and be seen to be seized) there are limits to how far the West can relax. Hopes are again raised of progress towards a more even military balance. But that makes it all the more imperative that Nato speaks with a single voice — and finds that voice quickly.

To do so, a balance of a different sort is required — that between the two pillars of the Alliance, the North American and the European. The strengthening of that second pillar, on the foundations already laid by the WEU, is among the responsibilities facing Britain.

The WEU was founded as a defence alliance after the Second World War, but was quickly overshadowed by Nato, with its crucial transatlantic dimension. The European Alliance then remained largely moribund until reinvigorated (at the instigation of France) several years ago. Only still more recently has its renaissance begun to look permanent — only, in fact, since last October's meeting of foreign ministers at The Hague, when they pledged themselves to seek a common defence identity for Europe.

Holland, which hands over the presidency today, helped shape the necessary doctrine. Now Britain has to help translate that into practical policies.

To some extent the WEU has already proved its worth by coordinating European naval forces in the Gulf. Five of the seven member powers have had ships there this year, while the others have also helped — Luxembourg

financially and West Germany by plugging defence gaps left at home.

Its next most immediate objective must be to develop joint policies on arms control, both nuclear and conventional, as the superpowers continue to move closer together. As Sir Geoffrey Howe said in The Hague, future arms control treaties should take into account European interests — a clear reference to the doubts over the removal of all medium-range missiles under the INF Treaty.

But a solution to the vexed problem of burden-sharing in Nato must also have priority. Whichever candidate wins the US presidential election in a little over four months' time, there is likely to be increased pressure from Congress for US troop withdrawals from Western Europe. The US wants to see a less grudging approach to defence spending from the Old World. This is not going to be easy to achieve, when many Europeans perceive the risk of war to be evaporating.

The most lasting single contribution which the WEU could make to Western defence would be to draw France increasingly within a security framework. The recent collaboration between France and West Germany on defence has been paralleled (to some extent) by an improved relationship between the defence ministries of Paris and London. It is a natural development for these bilateral contacts to produce a multilateral framework within Europe.

Exactly how multilateral is one of the most delicate problems facing the WEU. Britain will lead the negotiations this year over the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Alliance. There are mixed feelings about the blessings which might accrue. The WEU's big advantage has been that, by containing only countries with similar defence interests in central Europe, it has a natural unity of purpose.

The negotiations must seek to ensure that letting in the Iberian peninsula will truly strengthen the organization. Britain's Foreign Secretary again described the WEU last October as the "arch between Nato's two pillars." It might crumble under the strain if others tried to clamber on top.

As it is, the WEU looks like providing Herr Wörner with comforting support during his tenure of office. He also might reflect that a touch of British pragmatism is probably the best means of keeping the two pillars strong — and joined together.

SCHOOL TROUBLE

For the second time in a week Britain's local education authorities have had a stern warning. Unless they embark on some rapid and wide-ranging preparatory work the Government's revolutionary plans for schools will be put in immediate jeopardy.

First came the demand from the National Foundation for Educational Research that the Education Department and local councils take urgent steps to enrol and train responsible people to undertake the new, enhanced role of school governors. Then on Tuesday the Audit Commission pointed to a serious flaw in the smooth handover of the financial management from the local education authorities to secondary and larger primary schools.

The councils have clearly not understood the full implications of the change. Even those that have begun work on schemes are falling far short of the total revolution envisaged by Mr Kenneth Baker in his Bill to give the schools back to parents and local communities.

Assuming that the Bill becomes law at the end of this month, local authorities will be obliged to submit schemes for the financial management of their schools by September next year. After ministerial approval these would come into full operation in April, 1993. By then governors and the heads will have control of almost every part of the school's operation, from hiring and firing staff to organizing repairs to buildings.

Financial control is the final plank in the reforms. It hands the real control of their schools to the headteacher and school governors, who will have to decide how the money allocated by the local authority is split between teachers' salaries, books, and everyday costs like heating and lighting.

These school funds can be augmented, for example, by the letting of halls and other

facilities. In some areas extra clerical help is being provided for the heads. But none of the schemes anywhere in the country comes close to meeting the requirements of the legislation without substantial modifications.

So far there is little evidence that school heads and governors are in any position to fulfil the role being demanded by the Government. Many authorities, it appears, do not even seem to be aware of the role they are going to have to play. They stand accused by the Audit Commission of failing to face up to the changes ahead.

If nothing more is done to plan the changeover, even more responsibility will fall on headteachers who are already having to become school managers as well as educators (in job interviews up and down the country appointment panels are paying almost as much attention to a candidate's ability as a financial manager as they are to his or her educational skills). But even if the head is able to lift the burden from the governors in running the financial side of the school, that is clearly not what the Government had in mind. The demand from Mr Baker is to give power to the parents, not to an overworked headteacher.

The local education authorities, many of them in sympathy with Mr Baker's aims, have fallen short of the reasonable demands put on them. In consultation with the DES and the Audit Commission, they must devise detailed schemes. Parents and school governors must be consulted in deciding the best way of shifting the real power from the town hall to the community.

It is not too late to repair the damage and prepare the ground for what is the biggest change in the running of Britain's schools since 1944. Work must start now before it is too late.

THE OTHER ANC

The African National Congress takes some pride in being the oldest liberation movement in Africa. The respectability that comes with age and a skilful publicity campaign (helped unwittingly by President Botha, who has inflated its reputation for his own ends) has won it recognition in the capitals of the West.

This has not brought it any closer to victory at home. Failure to win the ultimate prize, a return from exile to the corridors of power in South Africa, has set up deep and abiding tensions within the ANC. Its black nationalist and Marxist elements are at odds; so are the old guard and the new, the political strategists and the men of violence.

Those divisions, complex and often contradictory, were doubtless exacerbated by the drubbing it received at the recent conference of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa. African leaders have grown impatient with the gap between the ANC's persistent failure to live up to its promises and its pretensions to international recognition as the "sole authentic voice of black South Africans".

It is against this background that the apparent contradiction in the latest ANC statements must be seen. The ANC is threatening a guerrilla campaign in South Africa's white suburbs; at the same time it is reported to be offering liberal constitutional proposals designed to win white support. Although these proposals have yet to be published, it is suggested that they represent a major step back from the commitment to a socialist State and the nationalization of South

Africa's mines and industries that were contained in its "Freedom Charter" of 1955.

If the advance publicity is to be believed, the new guidelines do more than address the concerns of South Africa's business leaders. The promised commitment to a multi-party democracy, a bill of rights, freedom of the press and, crucially, the protection of cultural and linguistic rights, is obviously designed to ally legitimate Afrikaner fears about the future of minorities under majority rule.

Indeed, these guidelines could provide a realistic basis for negotiation with South Africa's present rulers and with other political parties representing that country's fractured communities. At the very least they suggest that the ANC — or an element within it — is prepared to do some strategic thinking about the country's future, rather than rely on the belief that one more bomb blast will breach the walls of the white citadel.

The desire of the strategists to assuage white fears will not succeed, however, while others in the organization remain committed to the tactics of terror. The new proposals will be seen as designed simply to increase the organization's respectability among Western governments.

The ANC's return from exile can be assured only by the readiness of white South Africa to welcome it as a legitimate partner in negotiations about the country's future. It is unlikely to extend that invitation while the organization waves a liberal Constitution in one hand and brandishes a bomb in the other.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Methodist criticism of Tory policy

From the Reverend David Mason
Sir, The Rev Richard Jones, President of the Methodist Conference, is a scholar of no mean repute and a practising parson of the utmost integrity. It was therefore the more disappointing to read the account of his presidential address in Saturday's issue (June 25) of *The Times*. In particular, he stated that "the harsh under-belly of capitalism treats the poor with a mixture of contempt and patronising charity".

Now Mr Jones obviously does not vote Conservative, nor is he in sympathy with current Conservative Party policy. In that regard I share his position. However, he seems to say nothing that could not be said equally well by Neil Kinnock, Dr David Owen, or Paddy Ashdown.

It is this failure in the field of social ethics that characterizes so much contemporary ecclesiastical political utterance. There is no theological depth and therefore no prophetic integrity. The superficiality of modern Christian political statement is its own condemnation.

The reason why Archbishop William Temple was taken seriously in the early 1940s is precisely because he laid the foundation of basic Christian social principles from which he spoke, and, as a result, there was a clear structure of theological thought. Dean Walter Muelder did exactly the same in his searching political and economic analysis of the United States in the 1950s and 1960s.

Conservative politicians do not pay heed to Church leaders in their attacks on Government policy because what is said differs so little from similar speeches by the Opposition. For example, it is easy for the Methodist Conference to lament the financial crisis that undermines the National Health Service. But why is there no existing Christian critique of the welfare state that would provide firm ground for intelligent and informed debate?

Sir, The President of the Methodist Conference is right to speak his mind on the political climate of contemporary Britain. The tragedy is that he, like so many other distinguished ecclesiastics, does not provide the theological

framework to justify such fierce moral indignation.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID MASON,
71 Hamlet Gardens,
Hammer Smith, W6,
June 27.

From Mr A. N. Lindsay
Sir, As one who was born in a Methodist manse I find the reports of the President of the Methodist Conference on the Government's policies inept. In the 1930s my father's ministry in both rural and urban circuits brought him into close contact with poverty, deprivation, and suffering amongst many of his congregation. For him, the solution lay in socialism and the egalitarian evangelism of the then Dr Donald Spenser.

When the welfare state with the National Health Service came to realities he truly felt a real step forward had been made toward "the Kingdom of God on Earth".

I clearly recall an evening in the 1950s when he returned home, having travelled on a bus. A fellow passenger, an inebriated workman, had teased him. As he recounted the incident he made the comment, "Now they have everything and what do they spend their wages on — booze, bingo, and the betting shop".

A few years later, shortly before his death, I asked him if he thought his ministry had been worth while. Sadly, the answer was negative.
Yours faithfully,
A. N. LINDSAY,
Hanover House,
8/9 Hanover Crescent,
Brighton, Sussex,
June 27.

From the Director of the Church Society
Sir, It has been a widely-held view, that the influence of John Wesley and the Methodist revival upon the poor and the working classes saved this country in the 18th century from a revolution. The recent remarks of Wesley's present-day successor seem to indicate that it is his object to lead one! What would Wesley think about that?
Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAMUEL, Director,
Church Society,
Whitefield House,
186 Kennington Park Road, SE11,
June 27.

Aids testing

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones and Dr G. Murray Jones

Sir, The legal and medical reasons against routine testing for HIV infection (letter from Messrs Shauman and Sherrard, June 22) we find unconvincing and untenable. Our public health legislation has long imposed a compulsory obligation that a whole range of diseases should be notified. This is done without any requirement of patient's consent, actual or implied, or proof that such was for the patient's benefit.

Is there a valid reason for

treating an Aids sufferer differently? The consequences of HIV infection going undetected for partner(s), offspring, employment, life insurance, are far more serious than disclosure of medical truth.

Wiser nationwide counselling, replacing sensational media propaganda, could possibly lean public opinion to such views, and focus more on the innocent victims who are inflicted by a fatal and horrible disease.

We jointly sign this letter as lawyer and general practitioner because, now, from the touch line, we recognise a state of emergency demanding a united effort, even if some prejudices have to be abandoned for the common good.
Yours faithfully,
T. MERVYN JONES,
G. MURRAY JONES,
38 Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff,
June 24.

From Professor R. B. Heath
Sir, Mr Shauman and Mr Sherrard state that anonymised testing (for Aids) is already permissible. If that statement refers to testing undertaken without patients' consent, then it is certainly untrue. The Department of Health has yet to express approval of this method of testing and I am unaware of any other authority even advocating its use.

The report of the working group on the monitoring and surveillance of HIV infection and Aids to the DHSS went no further than stating that involuntary unnamed (anonymous) testing must not be ruled out for future consideration.

As one who firmly believes that involuntary anonymous testing is the only sensible way to obtain information on the current prevalence and future spread of HIV infection in this country, I feel it is important to stress that this method has yet to receive official approval, although hopefully this will be forthcoming in the near future.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HEATH,
Department of Virology,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
51-53 Bartholomew Close, EC1,
June 24.

Wartime massacre

From Sir David Napley

Sir, My friend, Colonel Draper, is, of course, quite right when he points out (June 30) that it would not be possible to reconstitute the Nuremberg tribunal to try Mohnke for the Wormhoudt massacre. I have never expressed a contrary view and, like Colonel Draper, I consider that the remedy lies with the German Federal Government.
Yours truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
107-115 Long Acre, WC2.

Thyssen collection

From Mr Ewald Junge

Sir, We have been told, time and again, that Baron Thyssen's art collection is "second only to that of the Queen" among privately-owned ones. Very well then: do we need to spend a large fortune on it? Do we need the second best, leaving aside for the moment all questions of what we own publicly?

I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to see some of the collection at Burlington House earlier this year, and am grateful to *The Times* for making this possible. This still does not answer the question whether we do not have on permanent display Rembrandts, Caravaggios or even Canalettos and Holbeins enough here in London, let alone elsewhere in the country and in Scotland.

Mr Michael Levey's language, as quoted in your leading article (June 25), is perhaps a trifle

immoderate; but I see his point. We need (a) to see to it that what we have already got is suitably housed and displayed and (b) to endow a purchasing fund for essential new acquisitions, be they among old or modern masters.

To grab at the Thyssen collection (or accumulation, rather) in lieu of such a strategy seems to me shortsighted. I might add that all of this, again, leaves aside the question of underfunding living arts at the expense of dead ones.

To cite but one example: when it was suggested that the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden needed rebuilding rather than refurbishing, no money could be found from public funds. Indeed, even the refurbishment is only made possible by having off part of the site for private development.

Yours truly,
EWALD JUNGE,
The White House,
Regent's Park, NW1,
June 25.

Ilea boarders left out in the cold

From Mr M. I. Samuels
Sir, The proposal to abolish the Inner London Education Authority and place education in the hands of the London boroughs fails to take into account the 1,300 pupils who require to be educated in boarding schools outside the capital.

These children are subject to statements of special need according to procedures laid down by the Government's 1981 Education Act and include some of the most disadvantaged, for whom provision has to be made. The work of these schools is so specialised that it is impossible to imagine that a single borough could organise the comprehensive residential system needed for blind, deaf, emotionally-disturbed and physically-handicapped children. To replicate even part of the service borough by borough would, in addition, be prohibitively expensive.

The head teachers of these schools have developed an interdependent and coherent pattern of education that serves the whole of the inner-London area. They fear that their expertise and quality of service will not be available in the undiluted form in which the Bill now before Parliament is presented.

The secretary of state should be pressed to amend section 144 of the Education Reform Bill to enable the boarding special schools to remain a unified and specialised service meeting the residential needs of all disability groups, irrespective of the borough in which they live.

Instead, an educational trust should be set up to run the existing institutions. This would maintain one of the Ilea's outstanding achievements whilst concom-

itantly relieving the boroughs of a costly and thorny problem.

The fragmentation of the boarding sector would unintentionally cause harm to the group of children who need the most help and care.

Yours etc,
M. I. SAMUELS (Chairman,
Ilea Boarding Schools
Consultative Committee),
Enborne Lodge School,
Essex Street,
Wash Common,
Newbury, Berkshire,
June 29.

School governors

From Mr Phil Woods

Sir, All praise to your editorial (June 27) emphasising the need for parents to stand as school governors. For there to be enough governors, however, all parents have to be much better informed. The old ways of informing parents (the bureaucratic language, reliance on the vagaries of pupil post, etc) have to go and innovative ways be tried of reaching parents.

In Wales, we are pioneering a free, national guide for parents intended to galvanise them into participating more fully, as well as giving them the information they need. It is written by consumers, rather than teachers or administrators — though it has wide-spread support within the education system.

More consumer-led initiatives are sorely needed if the Government's aim of greater parental involvement is to be realised.

Yours sincerely,
PHIL WOODS (senior
research officer),
Welsh Consumer Council,
Castle Buildings,
Womansly Street,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan,
June 27.

Higginson rejected

From Mr C. D. O. Jenkins

Sir, As we expected, the rejection of the Higginson report [on "slimmed-down" A levels; reports, June 8, 9] has stimulated a great deal of British interest in the international Baccalaureate.

It is difficult to understand why, once again, revision of A-level education has come to nothing. It is particularly difficult for us to comprehend as we have already faced up to the much-quoted difficulties, as have the 400 schools who follow our programmes and sit our examinations.

Half of these schools incidentally are ordinary State schools in a range of European and North American countries, which have opted for the rigour of the programme against generally less

testing national systems (including the British one).

As a British citizen I feel a deep sadness that, once again, A-level candidates are being denied a proper education. One had such high hopes that "Higginson" was to be the breakthrough.

It is particularly sad that, while the whole of the European education system seems closely aware of 1992 and the value of an education which is broad with a strong language component, Britain continues to espouse a form of education for the 16-18 year-old which has been out of date (if it were ever anything else) for a very long time.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN JENKINS (Director of
Examinations),
International Baccalaureate Office,
University of Bath,
Claverton Down, Bath, Avon,
June 21.

Estate agents' code

From the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading

Sir, Christopher Warman's report (June 27) described proposals for a voluntary code of conduct and the creation of an ombudsman for estate agents. The Office of Fair Trading is watching the development of these proposals with interest.

The report also mentioned potential dangers to the image of estate agency as a result of "mortgage fraud". Your readers may like to know that, under the Estate Agents Act 1979, the Director General of Fair Trading can make orders against those convicted of fraud, dishonesty, or violence, banning them from engaging in estate-agency work. I have already used those powers in cases involving mortgage fraud.

Moreover, my office has recently written to all chief constables to invite their co-operation by advising the office of cases under investigation or coming to trial. This will help me to act promptly where action is required. I am pleased to say that the initial response has been very positive.

It is in everyone's interest to ensure that those who demonstrably cannot be relied on to deal honestly and fairly with the public are prevented from entering or continuing in estate agency. The order-making powers in the Estate Agents Act provide a means of achieving this, and the Office of Fair Trading always welcomes information, from whatever source, which might help in the effective exercise of those powers.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BORRIE,
Director General,
Office of Fair Trading,
Field House,
Bream's Buildings, EC4.

Education vouchers

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University

Sir, Your leader article of June 28, "A bridge of vouchers", is too grudging about this important matter. Vouchers solve many problems and not just those of the alternative funding of higher education.

The influence of controlled market forces will be to stimulate change and boldness in an otherwise defensive system of universities and colleges.

More importantly, they will encourage diversity of provision and thereby relieve the monotonous cloning of Oxbridge. That alone is sufficient justification of vouchers.

The main point, however, is to understand and accept that it was ever foolish to subsidise the supplier rather than the customer. The satisfied intelligent customer is the best safeguard of all that we do, especially with regard to higher education and academic freedom in particular.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Strathclyde,
McCauley Building,
16 Richmond Street,
Glasgow, G1,
June 29.

Uneasy on the ear

From Mrs Betty Williams

Sir, Never resident in Yorkshire, nor indeed Lancashire, schooled in Nottingham, educated at Oxford, long time domiciled in Hertfordshire, and recently moved to Devon. I nevertheless ran straight through Mrs Hall's examination paper (June 25) at a glance. What then is this mystique about Yorkshire-speak?

Understanding is one thing, but does one find it mellifluous enough to wish to use it?

And how stands Mrs Hall on real George? Now there is a mystery!

Yours, I trust respectfully in Queen's English,
BETTY WILLIAMS,
4 Warren Park, West Hill,
Ottery St Mary, Devon,
June 27.

Cut to size

From Mrs Elspeth Walder

Sir, Headmasters stuck for a topical punishment at this stage in the summer term might ask their erring pupils to submit a 200-word précis of Mr Gorbachov's speech to the national Communist Party conference (*The Times* today, page 7).

Yours sincerely,
ELSPETH WALDER,
45 Courtenay Street, SE11,
June 29.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

June 30: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Zoological Gardens in Edinburgh to mark the 75th Anniversary of their opening.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk (Lieutenant-Colonel James Stirling of Garden).

Her Royal Highness, Viscountess, later visited Strathcrone Hospital, Randolph Hill, Denry.

The Princess Royal, attended by the Countess of Lichfield, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Beaverbrook (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of The King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to Her Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Captain Malcolm Edge, RN (Deputy Master of Trinity House) at the Memorial Service for Captain Roland Watkin, RN which was held at St Mary's, Balsaugh, Isle of Man this afternoon.

Mr M. George and Miss D.A. Wilkins. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. George, Thorpe Bay, Essex, and Debbie Anne, eldest daughter of the late Mr A.D. Wilkins and of Mrs B.J. Wilkins, Great Wakering, Essex.

Mr A.D. Graham and Miss J.D. Rankin. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Professor and Mrs J. Graham, of Colmace, Kea, Cornwall, and Mrs L.M. Graham, of Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset, and Janet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs H.C.D. Rankin, of Carcoek, Fife.

Mr M.A. Hodgson and Miss J. Hayward. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Professor and Mrs J. Hodgson, now of Palmerston North, New Zealand, and Nicola Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Hayward, of Fort William, Inverness-shire.

Mr J. Jezalik and Miss L.L. Hill. The engagement is announced between Jonathan Edward Stephen, youngest son of the late Captain J. Jezalik and of Mrs N. Jezalik, of Court Cottage, King's Sutton, Oxfordshire, and Joanna Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George R. Hill, of 23, Sheffield Terrace, London, W8.

KENSINGTON PALACE June 30: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited Coventry and was received on arrival at Birmingham Airport by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of West Midlands (The Earl of Aylesford).

Her Royal Highness opened the restored Coventry Canal Basin Warehouses this morning and was later entertained by luncheon at the Council House by the Lord Mayor of Coventry (Councillor A. Waugh).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon opened the new Day Surgery Unit at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Hon Mrs Whitehead.

KENSINGTON PALACE June 30: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, this morning received Sir Eldon Griffiths, General Sir William Jackson, Mr Sam Alper and Mr Michael Welbank.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of Papworth and Enham Foundations for Handicapped People, today opened Southbrook Field housing development, Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridgeshire.

Her Royal Highness, attended by The Princess Alexandra, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Reception Prime Minister The Prime Minister was host at a reception held yesterday at 10 Downing Street to mark the golden jubilee of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

The Princess of Wales celebrates her birthday today. Lord and Lady Cullen of Ashbourne are overwhelmed by the kindness of their friends on the occasion of their fortieth wedding anniversary, and ask their patience for individual response.

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, under the command of the Captain-General, Colonel the Lord Clyde, visited the Sticks for Scotland on duty.

The Bands of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Argyshire Regiment) and the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders played selections of music.

Sir Ian Tennant, as Lord Her Majesty's Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, had the honour of being received by The Queen this evening.

The Prince of Wales, President, Scottish Business in the Community, this morning visited the Edinburgh Venture Enterprise Trust at 30 Rutland Square, Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness, President, Scottish Business in the Community, subsequently visited the Western Hales Employment Initiative at Western Hales, Edinburgh.

Major Christopher Lavender was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this morning opened Broom Court.

Mr D.S. Hooper and Miss C.M. Daubeny. The engagement is announced between David, son of Sir Robin Hooper and the late Lady Hooper, and Caroline, daughter of the late Sir Peter Daubeny and of Lady Daubeny.

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Forthcoming marriages

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OBITUARY

MARCHESA IRIS ORIGO

Byron biographer who helped war's victims



ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Births: On June 28th, 1988, at Westminster Hospital, a daughter, Hannah, to Mr and Mrs John and Susan...

Deaths: On Wednesday June 30th, 1988, at St George's Hospital, London, a daughter, Elizabeth, to Mr and Mrs John and Susan...

THE TIMES Births Deaths and Marriages For your convenience we have extended the deadlines on the above classifications...

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THE ARTS

John Russell Taylor on some more satisfying exhibitions than the Biennale to see in Venice this summer

Smaller is beautiful

Cutting coats to suit cloth is not perhaps the most inspiring programme for any artistic event, for who is going to be thrilled at the notion of playing safe? It is likely to produce, and has in the 43rd Venice Art Biennale (until September 25), results at once decent and dull.

However, for habitués of the institution, there is a lot to be said for taking a little dullness as the price of decency. The theme shows, with the anodyne label "Quality and Actuality", which could mean anything or nothing, benefited from curtailment compared with the frantic overspill of two years ago.

One of the things the theme show fails to demonstrate, unfortunately, is that quality persists reliably into the immediate present: most of the new masters of the Eighties given a room each (Chia, Clemente, Lüpertz, Kounellis, for instance) evince either stagnation or lack of direction in their latest work.

The shining exception is Cy Twombly, who has stopped, except in one solitary piece, scribbling inscriptions on his canvases, and instead taken to wonderfully atmospheric landscape painting, mostly in greens and whites, which at first glance renders his work unrecognizable but then confirms an extraordinary new flowering of his talent.

Of the national pavilions, again the best all-round display is the British, devoted to the sculpture of

Tony Cragg. Ideally it could do with more space around it, but the imaginative quality of the work, the excellence of the catalogue and the sensitivity of the arrangement, really radiate quality.

Cragg also is an artist who has undergone a spectacular self-renewal of late: there is one wall-piece of found plastic fragments to remind us, but most of the works included suggest an enormous widening of range both in the subject-matter and in the techniques, which include casting, modelling, carving and turning stone and wood into unexpected and wholly convincing shapes.

Strangely enough, the other single most distinguished pavilion is the Soviet. Strangely because it has nothing to do with the Biennale's slant in favour of the most up-to-the-minute in art.

Instead, the Russians present a museum-quality tribute to the memory of Aristarch Lennov (1882-1943), who, though by no means one of the most advanced artists of his era, was until glasnost one of the Great Unmentioned.

A big disappointment is the American pavilion, devoted to Jasper Johns, going back to the early Seventies and coming right up to date. Alas, it seems to show progressive enlightenment of the creative impulse; in the recent works there is still some elegance, but the workmanship is quite rough-and-ready.

The West German pavilion, given over to Felix Droese, is entitled "The House of Weapon-

GALLERIES
**Venice Biennale/
The Art of Mexico
before Columbus**
Palazzo Ducale

**Federico
Zandomeneghi**
Ca' Pesaro

Licini
**Fondazione Bevilacqua
la Masa**

lessness", curiously since the major effect is one of sledge-hammer blows and a determination to trample over our sensibilities in a series of coarse cut-outs and roughly-hewn chunks of wood.

Elsewhere, wood emerges as the most sympathetic material. Two in the Japanese pavilion who carve it - Katsura Funakoshi, who makes elaborately naturalistic painted human figures, and Shigeo Toya, who produces a forest of conventionalized trees from blocks of solid wood - are both quite fascinating.

There is also a little interesting painting around. The Yugoslav, Janec Bernik, has a finely conceived and executed series, based primarily on the Crucifixion and

Deposition. The Icelandic Gunnar Orn faintly resembles a Nordic John Bellamy, with his mythological images of half-human half-birds or half-fish.

How about the avant-garde? Difficult to tell how, these days, such a thing might manifest itself. Offensiveness is evident in the Brazilian pavilion, where the tent-like structures with which, apparently, Juraci Doria has been scattering the backwoods of his native land are surrounded by genuine cow-pats in such profusion that they can be approached comfortably only by those equipped with gas-masks.

There are several artists who create total environments. Claude Vialat hangs the French pavilion with colour variations of a basic shape, endlessly repeated, so that it looks like a wallpaper showroom.

Guillaume Bijl makes the Belgian pavilion look like an Ideal Homes display, c.1947, pursuing his technique of reproducing everyday scenes (an employment office, a stand in a trade fair) exactly but in slightly alien surroundings. Poul Gernes in the Danish pavilion at least is without affectations a decorator, and his painted schemes in hospitals and such would no doubt be genuinely cheerful and uplifting.

It is quite a relief to head back into Venice proper, where a number of independent delights await.

First and foremost, Mexican Art before Columbus, at the

Palazzo Ducale until September 4 is another wonderful example of the Olivetti way with mounting exhibitions. It is a display of the utmost elegance and refinement, and an immaculate selection of pre-Columbian sculpture, mostly from Mexico's Museum of Anthropology, which leaves most visitors wondering why nothing on show in the Giardini has even a fraction of the same conviction and effortless mastery of form.

At the Ca' Pesaro until August 21 is a totally charming retrospective of Federico Zandomeneghi (1841-1917). Italian in Paris and close friend of Degas, he obviously loved the eternal female in all shapes and forms, and had a peculiar mastery of touch in the delicate and feathery pastels, to such an extent that many even of his oil paintings look from a short distance like pastels.

At the Palazzo Grassi the blockbuster tentatively devoted to The Phenicians continues until the end of September, and the Galleria della Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa has until August 18 a well-deserved retrospective of Licini, a sort of Italian cross between Miró and Klee.

His work, delightful but unmistakably minor, is relentlessly aggrandized in a succession of catalogue essays on the iconology and semiology of his work, as though Italian art historians have collectively lost altogether their sense of proportion.



Tony Cragg's work "Policeman" fails to hold a viewer at the Biennale

Plagued by food

THEATRE
Greek
Wyndham's

Eight years after its fringe premiere, Steven Berkoff's cockney Oedipus returns in style, with a West End revival and as the libretto of Mark-Anthony Turnage's opera at the Munich Biennale (reviewed last Saturday by Hilary Finch).

According to your cultural loyalties, you could describe this piece as an exercise in mythic tran-



Master sketcher: Steven Berkoff

gression (as recommended by Grotowski), or as the act of a graffiti-spraying vandal. Either way, Berkoff would probably agree.

If he has put the skids under Sophocles with on-stage violence and an unstoppable avalanche of four-letter words, he draws the

line at the real Sophoclean atrocity. After all he has gone through, Eddy decides that incest is by no means the worst thing in the world; so, instead of putting his eyes out, he heads back home to carry on as a flourishing café proprietor with a rapturous sex-life.

This strikes me as an entirely sensible decision, and a promising subject for comedy, which in part Berkoff's production supplies. Sad to say, the piece also has a message for Britain.

We are in the grip of a plague: as evidenced by child abuse, abortion, and the poor quality of restaurant food, Berkoff shows an obsessive interest in food; it is appropriate that his runaway hero strikes it rich by taking over a fly-blown café and banishing greasy chips and cardboard pies in favour of sausages containing real meat.

It is here, though, that the myth gets into a twist. First Berkoff identifies the café as Eddy's kingdom; then we discover that, notwithstanding the greatly improved sausages, the plague is continuing unabated in the surrounding streets.

As a fable, Greek nose-dives into incoherence; and its text, impressively fertile in cockney Shakespearean catalogues of disgust and horror, turns to mush whenever it attempts the expression of love.

Berkoff's production, as ever, is as scrupulously disciplined as a karate display; with beautifully organized pantomimes of bleary commuters and pub rowdies, Georgia Brown makes a lovely meal of the text.

But Berkoff remains the only pantomime artist on stage. Whatever he presents, from a panting rat to a snorting coffee dispenser, as the sketch of a master draughtsman. Energetically as Bruce Payne and Gillian Eaton accompany him, they remain actors and nothing more.

Irving Wardle



Zest, vigour and ripe voiced effectiveness: Claudio Desderi (Falstaff), Felicity Palmer (Mistress Quickly)

Intimate musical feast

OPERA
Falstaff
Glyndebourne

the shadowy outlooms of a Don Quixote, but in this production he is also very definitely Don Juan. The prayer books carried by the ladies and Doctor Caius gain their point in the final scene when they are thrust scoldingly at Falstaff while semi-naked devils with pitchforks leap over him.

However, the moral is not heavily made, and the main stabilization of the comedy comes from a seriousness about the underlying emotions. In this regard the scene where Alice and Meg read their letters is particularly good: they are neither of them quite sure how genuinely the other is touched, nor indeed how much they feel themselves, but then twice, after a mounting earnestness, the situation tumbles over into laughter, exactly as the music would have it.

Not only does this interpretation seem to follow naturally from the score (like so much that Hall does), it also becomes reasonable when this Falstaff is not altogether an impossible proposition as a lover. As Claudio Desderi told John Higgins here on Tuesday, he had given the role a rest for a while before this production, and perhaps because of that he is able to return to it with infinite zest and vigour: he obviously so much enjoys himself, as any Falstaff must. He also reveals how very lyrical

all part this is, and again it is the scale of the auditorium that makes possible the performance where so much, particularly in the first scene, is delivered on the gentlest breath, helping to bring out the nature of Falstaff as Quixote. But this is not at the expense of his aspect as Don Juan: Desderi thoroughly relishes the sexual appetite of the man and makes his advances seem a real threat. Of such a one, Ford might well be jealous.

His jealousy is also more than justified by the gloriously-sung and laughing performance of Yvonne Kenny as his wife, a major achievement, as is Anne Howell's luscious and characterful Mistress Page, while Felicity Palmer is an effective, ripe-voiced Mistress Quickly. Give also a bright Nanetta, from Eva Lind, the quartet of ladies is superbly accomplished and witty.

But this is altogether an excellent cast. Robert McFarland could perhaps manage more variety of tone in his stern Ford, and possibly there were a few too many moments of unsupported head voice in the young Gianluca Sorrentino's attractively sung Fenton, but these were mere details.

The important thing - and it owes a lot to the confidence, clarity and not least the coolness of Haitink's conducting, not forcing the hilarity - is that Glyndebourne has a magically alive production, which does justice to the feelings preserved and overturned in the turmoil of good humour.

Paul Griffiths

Richard Morrison meets Michael Finnis, composer featured in the Almeida Festival

Certain doubt

It is apt that Paris should have heard Michael Finnis's first opera before London. The 42-year-old composer writes music which, at its best, is both nakedly emotional and intensely complex, and he is not the first English composer to find these qualities more widely appreciated on the Continent than here.

This summer, however, Finnis is at large in London. The opera, *The Undivine Comedy*, is at the Almeida Theatre (which commissioned it) on Sunday, as the centrepiece in a mini-festival of Finnis, which includes him playing his own explosive piano pieces as no one else can. And at the Proms his new orchestral piece, *Red Earth*, receives its first performance.

The eclectic Finnis is as likely to gain inspiration from aboriginal culture as from early 19th-century Polish literature. *The Undivine Comedy* is based on the surreal *Mac-Boska Komedia*, by Zygmunt Krasiński.

Finnis took a year simply to fashion it into a libretto, compressing its large cast into an opera for just five singers and nine players, and adding quotations from Hölderlin and the Marquis de Sade for good measure. "A Polish scholar would probably say I've done violence to the original. But it is a saloon play, rather like Byron's *Manfred*, so the staging directions are rather wild."

The opera portrays two central figures: an aristocratic poet, egotistically interested only in his own artistic impulses; and a revolutionary leader, equally narrow in vision. Intriguingly, the same woman singer, called The Muse, acts as a kind of sidekick to both men.

"She represents their capacity to succeed, although both get overtaken by their own personal vanities, so they don't succeed."

The work seems deeply pessimistic about revolutions. "That is partly explained by Krasiński's own background," says Finnis. "His father, a Polish aristocrat, fought in Napoleon's army, then deserted and joined the Tsar's army. That put him in trouble with the Poles."

"So I think Krasiński became very disillusioned with militarism and republicanism. Being an ardent Catholic yet also a typical, melancholic, Slavonic thinker, very despairing and nihilistic, he

paints the revolution in a bad light.

"But the opera is not completely without hope. I try to tie together the poet's faith, which is religious, to the revolutionary leader's faith - a grassroots socialism - so that eventually they both represent human aspiration."

The piece also clearly examines artistic self-doubt. Was this a factor in Finnis's choosing it? "It was in fact my first motive. It made all manner of echoes, and I thought I could compose it from the heart."

Finnis says the musical language is "predominantly quite tranquil and lyrical, to give the characters time to elucidate their ideas, though there are moments of expressionistic violence."



Pleasure from symbols: Finnis

"My earlier pieces were short but highly concentrated. Now I am being asked for longer pieces, this density of information would actually be counter-productive to the audience's comprehension."

Some aspects the audience is not expected to comprehend. Finnis is a great practitioner of the "encoded message".

"The opera has any number of musical symbols which, if one got to know it well, one could disentangle. That's part of my pleasure in writing the work, and they add a certain richness, a density."

"People may only see the surface of a piece, but seeing the surface and knowing there's something underneath it, I think, more satisfying than seeing a surface and knowing this is all there is."

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Our principle objections

TELEVISION

Great Britain is a civilized country, argued Jean Paul Kaufman, the Frenchman recently released from captivity in Beirut, and if the British authorities knew of the conditions under which the hostages were held they would undoubtedly act to free them.

This week (ITV) offered a report that left Britain in little doubt as to the ordeal which the hostages have endured for months if not years, but also gave small comfort to their friends and family. It seems that the supporters of Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan are likely to remain the only Britons whose concept of civilization extends to acting in

encure the hostages' release. In this brief half hour the producer, Lorraine Heggessy, presented all the new information which Kaufman's release has made available to the Western

media. The programme began with a dramatic reconstruction of the hostages' lifestyle, they were shown half naked and chained together in a small, windowless, concrete cell with a few books for entertainment and rice and beans to eat.

They have no privacy whatever. There were no allegations of torture, physical or psychological, but the method of moving the men from one hiding place to another was brutal.

Each hostage was wrapped, mummy-like, in packing tape with only a tiny breathing hole left clear. Each was then crammed into a metal coffin under a van for a journey which might last twelve hours.

Reza Raad, a doctor of Lebanese descent who took part in the French negotiations to free Kaufman, gave his analysis of the power balance in Beirut. It was, he said, like a case with three keys: Syria, the Lebanese pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and Iran. The most important of these was Iran.

The French had negotiated on all three fronts and concluded a deal which involved the repayment of an old debt, the release of an Iranian terrorist, and a timetable for the restoration of diplomatic relations between France and Iran.

Sir Anthony Parsons, the former British ambassador in Tehran, spoke for civilized Britain. The Iranians, he said loftily, had invented bazaar bargaining and there was no level for Britain to descend to this level.

Celia Brayfield

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THE TIMES

FRIDAY PAGE

Is child care 'the thalidomide of the 1980s'?

*I remember my mother, the day that we met
A thing I shall never entirely forget;
And I toy with the fancy that, young as I am
I should know her again if we met in a tram.*
G.K. Chesterton: *Songs of Education*.

Copies of two reports landed on my desk with a thump this week. One of them said that mothers are sacrificing half their lifetime's potential earnings by having children. The second said that fathers must take greater responsibility for child care. Taken together, these two sum up what is blowing in the progressive winds of the Commission of the European Community: namely, that women will not be free until there are full and comprehensive child care facilities to look after their children from infancy on; that these facilities are best when administered by the state rather than the marketplace or private child-care; and that the time has come to "persuade" the fathers of our land to change their role in child-rearing. With some boldness, it seems, the Commission is getting ready to harmonize not only weights, measures and tariffs among EEC members, but also values, attitudes and the New European Father and Mother.

as half truths. The impulse to rearrange gender roles and restructure the family does not quite come out of thin air or the malevolent ambitions of some social scientists. The fact is that in our new post-technological society the traditional divisions of labour between men and women no longer make perfect economic sense, or any other perfect sense. The old system in which women reared children; and men provided for them was a natural construct, and not some arbitrary plot against females, as the feminists mistakenly believe. Similarly, it would be a mistake today to think that the changes being advocated now are simply the arbitrary whims of some people who have got a bee in their bonnet.

All the same, certain questions immediately arise. The ability to put children in day care from a child's early months probably serves the interests of parents very well, but is it in the interests of the children? There are very few longitudinal studies on the effects of taking babies and young children out of the home and placing them in the care of strangers. There are some American studies which suggest this results in difficulties in bonding with natural mothers. Does this matter? I don't know. One study suggested that children taken away from the maternal environment become more aggressive and prone to arguments. If this were true, would it matter? Again, I don't know, but one

feels that perhaps these aspects ought to at least be investigated.

Curiously enough, they are not discussed in either of the two reports issued this week. The report of Peter Moss, co-ordinator of the European Community's Child Care Network, and that of Bronwen Cohen of the British Equal Opportunities Commission writing for the European Commission, make recommendations galore for the setting up of structures to monitor, enforce and select child care institutions, but they are un-concerned about the need to research the effects of child care on our children. It brought to mind the rather dire warning of one American social scientist who intoned to me darkly that "child care is the thalidomide of the 1980s".

British child care advocates are worried. "Child care has been shown to be beneficial," Bronwen Cohen told me confidently, and drew my attention to a 1987 study. In fact, I was familiar with this study and not at all clear what relevance it had to the question. As it happened, Peter Moss agreed with me: "That study doesn't tell you very much."



BARBARA AMIEL

he said. Still he, like Cohen, had no concern about the American studies. "The American context is weird," he said dismissively. "You can't generalize from one country to another." Neither Cohen nor Moss had any hesitation in citing American studies in favour of child care, although the studies mentioned were of deprived children only. I could hear the ominous buzz of bonnet bees.

Speaking as an amateur, my own guess is that children are most damaged from a feeling of being different from other children. Assuming that day care facilities are run competently, it seems to me that once institutional care is the norm, this particular form of harm would be limited. At the same time, human beings seem to have developed a bond between offspring and immediate family from our earliest days which is species-specific to the human race. Whether children are in some way wired to this, and how being raised outside a family will affect them, is surely one of those imponderables that will require very careful study to answer. I suppose in the end, what disturbs me

the most about reports such as those of Cohen and Moss is the general hubris behind their approach. There is such an arrogant certainty that their assumptions about non-scientific matters like attitudes and values are correct, and need no further study or justification. Moss is all ready to have the European Commission write a Good Practice Guide for Fathers. "Men cannot be forced to change," he writes reassuringly, but the role of fathers "needs to be on political and other agendas". Sanctions, perhaps?

Using the Trojan horse of child care, Cohen and Moss clearly believe they can restructure society and attitudes. While Moss is reworking the traditional dad, Cohen wants higher priority on anti-sexism and anti-racism training for the under-fives. No doubt gender roles need to be re-examined, but in so far as the changes are necessary and sensible, society will naturally adopt them. To speak of such matters as if they were the hard sciences, and to hasten and enforce changes, seems perilously close to the spirit of totalitarianism where the social engineers of the state permeate previously inaccessible areas of citizens' lives.

"I'm aiming to give women the choice they have in Sweden," Moss explained to me. "We have no choice," counters Katerina Runskic, head of the independent Family Campaign Foundation in Stockholm. "You can't support a family

on one salary in Sweden today. If I stay home the state will give me eight crowns a day, which isn't enough for the milk for my three children. If I go to work, the state will pay for the day care and give me 300 crowns a day if I get sick." Of course, while in Sweden it may well be very difficult to stay at home with the children for ideological reasons, there is some evidence that when a significant number of women move back into the labour market, prices adjust to the double income and inflation rises.

What finally puzzles me the most about these reports is the lack of concern for the ecosystems of human beings. People go on such wonderful crusades to protect the natural habitat of every single species of insect or animal. But the same people who recoil in horror at the thought that a species may disappear from the wild, and only be hand-reared in artificial conditions, seem indifferent to the plight of the family. Our social engineers are moving unobstructed to replace the uncertainty of the jungle with the deadly certainty of the zoo.

*But mother is happy in turning a crank That increases the balance at somebody's bank.
And I feel satisfaction that mother is free From the sinister task of attending to me.*

Season to be jolly

Hardly any dances, precious little champagne and certainly no husband hunting. So why has the list of launching debutantes become longer? Sally Brompton investigates

This evening, 17-year-old Zara Williams will attend her first ball of the Season. Clad in her brand-new strapless gown, groomed and polished to perfection, she will follow in the dance-steps of her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, taking her place among the social elite.

In the best traditions of high society, Zara is coming out. Yet her attitude to being launched upon the London social scene is very different from that of her ancestors. For one thing, she does not want to be known as a debutante. "A lot of my friends don't know what a debutante is; it has no meaning to people who aren't on the social scene."

As far as Zara is concerned, coming out is better than staying in. And, in that, she appears typical of many of her generation who have caused the Season to be reorganized around A level examinations. Despite the fact that the number of debutantes has risen since last year by 40 per cent after a steady decline since the mid-Sixties, there are still only 172 girls on the official list, almost half as many as in 1966.

Today's debutantes, unlike many of their mothers, are increasingly aware that they are among the privileged minority and, for the most part, they are given the choice to deb or not to deb. It is not uncommon for girls to turn down the opportunity to party the summer away.

The previous generation were not so worldly. As the mother of one of this year's debutantes told me: "When I came out in 1961 all my friends were doing it, so I just assumed it was something that everybody did in the same way that everybody went to church on Sundays and was

confirmed at 16. I was so cocooned that it just seemed the natural thing to do."

By contrast, her 18-year-old daughter, Candida, already has her own group of friends "with long hair and who follow bands". Candida regrets not being able to invite them to her coming out cocktail party "because, apparently, it's not the done thing. Somebody told me that there's supposed to be a black list and if you know people with long hair or whatever you don't get invited to anything".

Of the 200 youngsters invited to her party, Candida will know most of the girls and about 40 per cent of the boys whose names her mother got from The List. This coveted document is compiled by the *Tatler's* social editor, Peter Townsend, and consists of all the mothers and daughters who have responded positively to his exclusive mail-shot enquiring whether they would like to take part in the coming Season's jollities. The fact that she will know less than half of the boys at her own party bothers Candida not at all. "I'll go up to them and say 'hello, I'm your hostess'. You can meet some interesting people that way."

Perish the thought that today's deb should be husband-hunting as happened in their grandmothers' day. These not-always-reliant debutantes are independent-minded and career-orientated.

The majority of the dances have been replaced with cocktail parties serving white wine, Pimm's, Perrier and orange juice or, occasionally, champagne. "People just can't afford dances any more," says Jeryl Smith-Ryland, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, whose 17-year-old daughter, Petra, features on Townsend's magic list. She remembers her own mother



Two generations of debutantes: Zara Williams, who will attend her first ball of the Season this evening, with her mother, Ann

Of 60 million people in Britain, 172 girls will do the Season. It's not very important, really?

dismissing cocktail parties as "parties where other people put their cigarette ash in your drink".

Mrs Smith-Ryland came out in the early 1950s when the Season was a much more glittering affair, with full-blown dances every night of the week and extravagant country house parties at weekends. In those days, the debutantes were presented to the Queen — a tradition which ended in 1958 — and went through the ritual of the Queen's Chamberlain Ball, clad in white and curtsying to a gigantic cake, Ann Williams, who attended in 1960, sums it up in one word: "Dreadful. You really didn't know anybody; and white suits some people but not others. I always wanted to go back in jet black the following year."

It was the era when debutantes did nothing but party for the duration of the Season. "One got to bed with the dawn and got up in time to get dressed and go out again," Mrs Williams recalls. "You went to all four days of Ascot

and then, at the end of July, there was Goodwood and then there was Cowes." She still has the 209 invitations she received stuck in an old exercise book. Her daughter has so far been invited to 10 parties.

Cliff Richard and the Shadows played at Mrs Williams's coming out ball at the Wentworth Country Club. Zara's party to celebrate her 18th birthday and her brother's 21st, will have Juliana's discotheque and be professionally catered in a marquee in the grounds of their Surrey home.

"Petra is not at all fussed about coming out," Mrs Smith-Ryland says with a degree of surprise. "She's more fussed about other things which are more important in life, whereas we didn't go into things very deeply."

Petra, studying for her A levels and hoping to read social anthropology at univer-

sity, says: "There are 60 million people in Britain, and of them 172 girls are doing the Season. It's not very important, really. I think the whole thing is rather forced and a bit old-fashioned. I wouldn't encourage my own daughters to do it but if they wanted to I'd be very happy because it hasn't affected me at all."

The mothers insist that these days the cost of launching one's daughter can be minimal. "A lot of the girls don't like champagne anyway," I was assured. "They've had it watered down since they were children. Young people are terribly teetotal, although they do seem to smoke like chimneys."

Party frocks are as likely to come from Miss Selfridge as Chelsea Design and matching satin shoes are no longer *de rigueur*. Tickets for the official charity balls cost between £25 and £50 a head for dinner and dancing. Even the mothers appear not to drink, getting through as little as four bottles

of wine between 35 of them during a lunch of cold chicken, salad and strawberries. "A lot of people have their daily woman in an apron to help out."

The young men, usually in their early twenties, many of them something in the City, estate agents or still at university, are carefully vetted for long hair and bum-throwing tendencies before being included on The List.

Conscious that they are at a premium and crucial to the success of the Season, the young men throw the mothers into a state of refined panic by replying to their invitations at the last minute. "These young men are jolly lucky to be invited," snorted one. Even so, she admitted that "they may be a bit Hooray Henryish but it's better than breaking car windows with beer cans. A lot of the young go off the rails these days and I think we're more concerned than ever that our children should meet up with people who we know something about."

Father's days

TALKBACK

From Michael Yorke, King's Road, Arkley, Barnet, Herts

Can Lee Rodwell or any of her worthy contributors ("Does he deserve it?", June 17) offer guidance to those hapless fathers who, having made the necessary adjustments to their own professional and social lives, now find their consequently increased presence in the family home a matter of supreme indifference to their children and more than occasional irritation to their spouses?

From Mrs J.D. Shire, Francis Avenue, Maidenhead, Berks

Mike Reed ("Lessons that could be a lifesaver", June 27) suggested some very practical ways of defending yourself when driving alone, particularly at night.

To his list I would also add, always drive with all the car doors locked. I started this

routine after a bad experience some years ago when a drunk football supporter pulled open the door of a car in which I was a passenger. It was a very scary experience and, as you see, has left a lasting impression.

From Susan Richardson, Littleheath Road, Setstun, Surrey

May I suggest that the RAC/AA could introduce a specific paging device, specifically for women travelling alone long distances, to be used in the event of a breakdown. Then women could remain locked in the car until help comes, which should be a preferential, speedy response, possibly with police alert. I am sure that many women would readily pay the extra subscription for this service.

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AND SO TO BED

Good and bad food guides

Are you sitting comfortably? If you are a parent responsible for feeding young children, then perhaps you shouldn't be.

Dr Miriam Stoppard's new paperback, published this week, provides a long list of the foods we should avoid giving our children.

They feature many of the staples of the family shopping list including: all commercial breakfast cereals, baked beans, frozen vegetables, sausages, ham, frozen fish products in batter or heavy sauces, beefburgers, sausages, white bread, white pastries, white pasta, white rice, custard powder, cheese spreads and commercially produced fruit yoghurts.

If your child has only just come off the breast, he or she should be weaned straight on to semi-skimmed milk, advises Stoppard. She also suggests

Should we really swallow all the latest advice on how to feed young children?

that: "For many babies, a favourite food is a teaspoonful of freshly-grated carrot juice, squeezed through a piece of fine muslin."

Despite the fact that children today are bigger, brighter, taller and heavier than they have ever been, there is a wave of anxiety about how we feed them.

In May the Coronary Prevention Group suggested that low-fat diets should begin at the age of two, when children should switch to semi-skimmed milk (though in fact the CPG is not going nearly as far in these suggestions as Stoppard).

Next month Thorsons will bring out a paperback by a

Welsh schoolmaster, Gwilym Roberts, entitled *Boost Your Child's Brainpower*. A couple of years ago, Roberts organized an experiment which he believes showed that vitamins increased non-verbal intelligence among 12 and 13 year olds. As a result, sales of vitamin pills soared.

But there is considerable concern among nutritionists that parents are being pressured into putting growing children on to adult-style diets. Penny Cowley, spokeswoman for the British Dietetic Association, was horrified at the thought that mothers might wean babies on to semi-skimmed milk as Stoppard suggests. She said: "When parents look at ways of reduc-

ing fat, milk should be right at the bottom of the list because of all the valuable nutrients and energy it contains."

Rosalind Lowe, who represents the Health Visitors Association as the DISS Committee on Child Nutrition, said: "I am totally against lists of foods you should avoid — it creates a very narrow mentality. Feeding is not just about nutrition. It is about giving love and caring and the meal table should not be turned into a battleground."

"If I had to follow recommendations like those described in Miriam Stoppard's book, I think I would jump in the river."

Ann Kent
©Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
Feeding Your Family (Penguin, £3.95).

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
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THEATRE LONDON

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE: Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tube: Chancery Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 6-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5.50-£17.50. Ends July 9. (O)
THE COMMON PURSUIT: Simon Gray traces the fortunes of undergraduates friends; splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gordon Sinclair. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mats Fri and Sat 6-8.15pm. £5-£14.50.
EASY VIRTUE: Attractive revival of Noel Coward's 1935 comedy. How scandalizing her teenage husband's tryst with a woman. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-878 8107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat Tues 3-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm. £5-£12.50.
GREEK: Steven Berkoff's savage version of Oedipus set in East London. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat Tues 3-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm. £5-£12.50.
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD: James Quinn as the wise white lawyer in Harper Lee's best-selling novel about growing up in Alabama. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Theatre, Barbican Theatre. Directed by Anthony Clark. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (01-858 7753). Train: Greenwiche. Shows 7.30pm tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm. Opens July 4, 7pm, then Mon-Sat 7.45pm. £4.50-£10.
ROMEO AND JULIET: Touring black Temba Theatre in London for three weeks. Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6363). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Thurs 2pm, 7.50.
THIS ISLAND'S MINE: Touching and ingenious play by Gay Swatshout, brought back for further run. Fine Performances. Drill Hall, 16 Chertsey Street, WC1 (01-637 8270). Tube: Goodge Street. Tues-Sat 8.10.10pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 5.
TOO CLEVER BY HALF: Alex Jennings plays the horny, arrogant, rascally Ostrovsky's spirited comedy. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-928 7616). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45pm, mat Wed 2.30 and Sat 4pm. £4-£14.
LONG RUNNERS: Beyond Reasonable Doubt. Cottesloe Theatre (01-734 1166). ... The Business of Murder. Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). ... Cats. New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ... 40791. ... Follies. Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5359). ... 42nd Street. Drury Lane Theatre (01-636 8109). ... Kiss Me Kate. Savoy

Lea Lialsona Dangerous: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 8111). ... We and My Girl. Adelphi Theatre (01-836 8111). ... Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0809). ... The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-838 2244). ... Run For Your Wife: Criterium Theatre (01-838 2216). ... Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8665).

OUT OF TOWN
COVENTRY: Bare Necessities: Erotic antics on a hyperactive campaign: the Belgrade lets us, um, hair down! Criterium Theatre (01-838 2216). ... (0235 553055). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. £3.50-£6.25.
MANCHESTER: Born Yesterday: Brenda Blethyn plays the archetypal dumb blonde in a welcome revival of a great comedy. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (01-628 8631). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. mat Sat 4pm. £2.60-£9.50.

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Also on national release
Advance booking possible
BABETTE'S FEAST (U): Stephanie Audran as a famous Parisian chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Progs 2.40, 5.45, 8.30, 11.15. Rialto (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.
BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY (18): Michael J Fox in his first stab at serious drama. James Bridges directs (100 min). Progs 3.00, 5.45, 8.30, 11.15. Leicester Square Theatre (01-830 5252). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.40, 11.45.
CROCODILE DUNDEE II (PG): Paul Hogan repeating his role as the king of the outback (112 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 1.25, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30, 11.00. Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 3.00, 5.45, 8.30, 11.15. Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.35, 5.45, 8.30, 11.20. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.40, 4.20, 7.00, 9.35. Empire Leicester Square (01-200 0200). Progs 1.30, 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.00, 11.10. Empire Leicester Square (01-200 0200). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45, 11.10.
DEADLY PURSUIT (PG): Sidney Poitier returns to the screen after a decade's absence as an FBI veteran teamed with a backwoodsman in the pursuit of a murderous villain (110 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 2.45, 5.30, 8.25, 11.15. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.00, 5.45, 8.25. Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.40, 5.35, 8.15, 11.20. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 1.20, 3.40, 6.05, 8.30, 11.15. Cannon Oxford Street (01-536 0310). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 6.00, 8.25, 11.15.

HAIRSPRAY (PG): Nutty comedy from director John Waters, America's high priest of bad taste, poking fun at the social habits of Baltimore teenagers in the 1960s (88 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.10, 4.10, 6.50, 9.00.



Society painter

When Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) left Ipswich for Bath in 1759 it was a shrewd career move because he gained access to the best of society and had no serious competition. His 15 successful years in the West Country, a period which is now the subject of an exhibition commemorating the bicentenary of his death, enabled Gainsborough to perfect his act before moving to London and taking on Sir Joshua Reynolds. As the confident portrait of pleasure-seeking aristocrat David Garrick (above) shows, during his Bath phase Gainsborough's stiff youthful style gave way to a more relaxed approach. But throughout his career Gainsborough's first love was landscape, his work in the "curs'd Fair Business", as he called it, being a tedious financial necessity. Besides portraits, among numerous landscapes featured in the present show is "The Harvest Wagon", which has been described as one of the greatest British pictures in any genre but which, having failed to sell, the artist exchanged for a horse when he decamped for London in 1774. Gainsborough in Bath starts today at the Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, Bath (0225-66669). Monday to Saturday 11am-5pm, Sunday 2.30-6pm, 1st, until August 14. Two additional bicentenary exhibitions are Gainsborough: The Printmaker at The Peter Pears Gallery, Adelburgh (072885-2935), daily 10am-5pm, £2, until July 3; and Gainsborough's Family at Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk (0787-72958), Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm, £1, until September 18. David Lee

Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 2.40, 5.30, 8.25, 11.15. Cannon Oxford Street (01-536 0310). Progs 2.20, 4.25, 6.30, 8.30, 11.15. Screen on the Green (01-226 3520). Progs 3.20, 5.10, 7.10, 9.10, 11.15.
A HANDFUL OF DUST (PG): James Wilby and Kristin Scott Thomas star in Evelyn Waugh's savage novel (118 min). Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 8861). Progs 12.50, 3.10, 5.40, 8.20.
PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES (18): An advertising executive (Steve Martin) and a showman (John Candy) on a nightmarish journey from New York to Chicago (100 min). Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.00, 4.25, 6.50, 9.15, 11.45. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15. Empire Leicester Square (01-200 0200). Progs 1.30, 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.00, 11.10. Empire Leicester Square (01-200 0200). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45, 11.10.
DEADLY PURSUIT (PG): Sidney Poitier returns to the screen after a decade's absence as an FBI veteran teamed with a backwoodsman in the pursuit of a murderous villain (110 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 2.45, 5.30, 8.25, 11.15. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.00, 5.45, 8.25. Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.40, 5.35, 8.15, 11.20. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 1.20, 3.40, 6.05, 8.30, 11.15. Cannon Oxford Street (01-536 0310). Progs 1.25, 3.35, 6.00, 8.25, 11.15.

Curzon West End (01-439 4805). Progs 1.30, 4.45, 8.00.
WALL STREET (15): Michael Douglas won an Oscar as the amoral wheeler-dealer, Charlie Sheen co-stars as his naive protégé (125 min). Curzon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.25, 5.45, 8.30.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148). Progs 2.35, 5.20, 8.00, 11.15. Odeon Chelsea Cottage (01-722 5905). Progs 2.00, 5.15, 8.20. Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011). Progs 12.50, 3.20, 5.50, 8.20.
WINGS OF DESIRE (15): Wim Wenders' epic tale of two angels watching over the citizens of Berlin (127 min). Gaiety (01-727 4043). Progs 1.00, 3.25, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15. Lumiere (01-835 0881). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.35, 11.15.

CONCERTS
KELLY'S UNOBLATIONS: The virtuoso saxophonist John-Edward Kelly gives the UK premiere of Marco's Unoblations, Belgrade Sonata and Karolik's Sonata, the world premiere of Elias's Pythagos Allegro, the London premiere of Gnanous's Allegro, Cecilia and Adagio. Haba's Suit Op 99 is included, too. Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-852 2141), 7.30pm, £2.50-£5.25.
BARE BOSSCH: Louis Demerutis Avramis plays the title-named Sonata Op 5, Chopin's Sonata No 3, Beethoven's Sonata No 8 "Pathétique" and No 11 "Quasi una Fantasia". St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1051), 7.30pm, £3.50-£6.50.
ALL-ELECTRIC: Richard Gosink conducts the Electric Symphony Orchestra in selected performances of Beethoven's Symphony No 5 and Terry Riley's Langley in C. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (01-278 8818), 7.30pm, £3.50-£6.50.
ALL THAIKOVSKY: The National Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Anthony Inglis in excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker, including the Violin Concerto (Anna Joseph, soloist) and 1812 Overture with cannon and mortar effects. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (01-278 8818), 7.30pm, £3.50-£6.50.
LOHENGRIIN: No Flacco Domingo, but a superb vocal performance by Sijgh Moshinsky's Wagner production, including Renzo in the title role, Cheryl Studer, and Gabriele Schnaut. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), 6.30-11pm, £2-7.
FALSTAFF: New production by Peter Hall as part of Glyndebourne's production of the opera. Glyndebourne, East Sussex (0273 541111), 5.30-9.55pm, returns only.

ROCK
DAVID BOWIE: The pale one makes a brief appearance with Montreal dance group La La Human Steps as part of the "I'm Not a Star" album launch show in aid of the ICA Endowment Fund. Also performing: Kronos Quartet, The Woodrats and Microdisney. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 5562), 7.30pm, £10-£25.
STATUS QUO: Rocking all over the Midlands. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 8pm, £9-21, for two nights.

JAZZ
GERRY MULLIGAN: First of three separate appearances from the festival's composer-in-residence, guest soloist brought with the Stratford-upon-Avon Jazz Festival, Mithel, Theatre, Granville Street, (041 221 3198) 8pm, £6.50.

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BROTHERHOOD OF BREATH: Continuing the "Sounds Good" season, Chris McGregor's ensemble includes Steve Williamson, Harry Beckett and Julian Argüelles. Support is from Craig Harris's Tangle's Tales. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3181) 8pm, 27.

GALLERIES
GEOFF RIDDEN: Recent abstract paintings. Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (01-250 1962). Mon-Fri 11-6pm, Sat-Sun 2-6pm, free, until July 31.
OTTO DIK: A cycle of etchings on war themes made in 1953. Gower Street, London SW7 (01-581 3344), Mon-Fri 12-6pm, free, until August 13.

MICHAEL PORTER: Recent, mysterious landscape paintings by a former artist-in-residence at the National Gallery. Fabian Cresson Gallery, 160 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-409 0619). Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until July 23.

UDMO REGINE: 80 Brimford Road, SW3 (01-581 5873). For about four weeks.
LIGNE ROSET: 130 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-434 2071). For one month.

EMANUEL UNGARO: 153 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 4718); 39 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-236 0488). For four weeks.
PADDY CAMPBELL: 8 Gears Court, St Christopher's Place, W1 (01-493 5846) and 17 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (01-225 0543). For about four weeks.

DESCAMPS: 197 Stone Street, SW1 (01-225 6957). For one month.

ANOTHER MAN DROWNING: Janet Smith tragic-comedy Lowry ballet features with recent productions of the final performances of Janet Smith and dancers, another company drawing for lack of a better one. Holland Park Open Air Theatre, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-602 7856) 8-10pm, £4, £5.

KATHAK DANCE: See caption. The Bhavan Institute of Indian Culture, 4a Cassestown Road, London W14 (01-381 3088), 7.45pm, £5-£10.

DAVID BOWIE: The pale one makes a brief appearance with Montreal dance group La La Human Steps as part of the "I'm Not a Star" album launch show in aid of the ICA Endowment Fund. Also performing: Kronos Quartet, The Woodrats and Microdisney. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 5562), 7.30pm, £10-£25.

STATUS QUO: Rocking all over the Midlands. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 8pm, £9-21, for two nights.

BRUCE: The teeny-pop sensations at the "I'm Not a Star" album launch show in aid of the ICA Endowment Fund. Also performing: Kronos Quartet, The Woodrats and Microdisney. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 5562), 7.30pm, £10-£25.

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GARDENS
CORNWALL: Myrtle Lodge Hill, Liskeard, off A28 at Liskeard, 01-8229 5599. Open 1.30pm, 9.30pm, 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Sun Aug 14, 2.30-6pm.

DURHAM: Gardens of Durham Botanic University: 1m from centre of Durham; turn off A167 at Cook's Cross; turn roundabout towards Durham for 1m, right into Hollingdale Lane. Admission to St Aidan's College 80p, daily 10-4pm.

GLAMORGAN: Myrny House: Myrny, nr Pontypridd; take junction 34 off M4, turn along dual carriageway N towards Llantrisant, right signed Myrny House. Admission 50p, Sun July 3, 10-5pm.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER: Evesham Cottege Garden Nursery: 5m from Hereford, nr Lida Wherry, nr NW of Worcester between Whaley on BA19S and Great Whaley on A44S. Admission 1.50p, open except Weds and Weds until Oct 31 (closed Aug 2). 2pm, morning or evening coach parties by appointment.

HUMBERSIDE: The Croft, North Cave: 5m from North Cave, nr Easingwold. Open 1.30pm, 9.30pm, 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Sun July 3, also open with 16 gardens in the village on July 10 admission to cover all gardens 2.50p.

A FLORAL FESTIVAL AT IRONBRIDGE: Based at three historic museum sites - the Coalport China Museum, Jackfield Tile Museum and Royal House - each decked out with floral displays relating to three centuries of industry in the town. Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, (095 245 3522). Today until July 5, daily 10am-6pm, late on Weds, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, 10am-6pm, to all three sites, daily £2.75.

PARLIAMENT AND THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION: Opening day of an exhibition to mark the tercentenary of the 1689 revolution in which James II was overthrown and William and Mary brought to the throne. Banqueting House, Horseguards Avenue, Whitehall, London SW1. Until October 1, daily 10am-6pm, late opening to Sat Wednesdays, Adult £2.50, child £1.

THE BURIED CITY - LONDON: 500m from the centre of London, Blackfriars tube, 11.30am, £2 (also next Fri).

GHOSTS, GHOULS AND HAUNTED TAVERNS: Meet St Paul's tube, 7pm, £3 (also next Fri).

WINDSOR FESTIVAL: Events at Windsor Castle, Eton College and Theatre Royal, including concert performance of Mozart's Figaro. Each Mass in 'D' Minor and Missa Solenne; and London City Ballet. Lectures and recitals: Sept 19 - Oct 5. Funchal House, Oct House, Englefield Green, Surrey.

KIROV BALLET: Visit from USSR, July 25-30. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836-3167) (01 240 5288 credit cards).

THE PAINTINGS OF EDWARD LEAR: Watercolours, oil paintings and bird illustrations. Ends today. Fine Art Society, 168 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-829-5116).

HEARTS AND VESSELS: New work by Elaine Kowalski. City of Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds. Ends Sun (0532 462495).

Theatre: Jeremy Kingdon; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Galleries: David Lee; Walks: Giles Carls; Summer Sales: Jeremy Gilbert; Gardens: Roy Hay; Bookings: Judy Frothingham; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

ART GALLERIES
BARONIAN ART GALLERY: Level 6, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0EE (01-836 4141) and

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

- BBC1
6.00 Ceefax. All
6.30 Edger Kennedy in Fish
7.00 Breakfast News with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones.

- ITV LONDON
6.00 TV-am begins with The Morning Programme introduced by Richard Keys; 7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris.



Airborne Anus: Liz Burch as the new doctor, Chris Randall, with Andrew McFarlane as Tom Callaghan in the medical drama series set in the Australian outback (BBC1, 8.10pm)

Taking off down under

Filling the Friday night Dynasty slot for the next few weeks is a series from Australia. The Flying Doctors (BBC1, 8.10pm). Out go the rich chicks and out Blake with his blue hair and in come a pair of fresh-faced, clean-cut young medics plying their trade in the outback.

TELEVISION CHOICE

no idea how The Flying Doctors will go down in Britain. Lacking the staple Dynasty ingredients of greed and intrigue and Joan Collins may be a handicap but perhaps viewers will welcome a return to a story of decent people doing worthy things.

- BBC2
6.55 Open University: Darwin and Diversity. Ends at 7.20
9.00 Ceefax.

- CHANNEL 4
11.30 Woman in View (r). 12.00 Nature in Focus: The wildlife of a lowland river bed (r).

Masters of all trades

A man of many parts himself (barrister, storyteller, actor, journalist, poet and playwright), and one-time boxer and pole-vault champion, it is logical and predictable that Ulick O'Connor, the subject of this week's My Heroes (Radio 4, 4.05pm) should select as one of his two idols a man who wears nearly as many hats as he wears.

RADIO CHOICE

performing an operation when there was a sudden gush of blood. "Oh God!" gasped the young surgeon who was helping him. "Cease calling on your unqualified assistant and pass the sponge!"

- BBC1
6.00 Ceefax. All
6.30 Edger Kennedy in Fish
7.00 Breakfast News with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones.

- CHANNEL 4
11.30 Woman in View (r). 12.00 Nature in Focus: The wildlife of a lowland river bed (r).

- 1.00 News: The Way We Live Now by Anthony Trollope, dramatized in eight parts by David Spencer, with Rosalind Shanks, Stephen Ashcroft, Debby Ashcroft and Michael Tudor Barnes (4) (s)
4.00 News: The Way We Live Now by Anthony Trollope, dramatized in eight parts by David Spencer, with Rosalind Shanks, Stephen Ashcroft, Debby Ashcroft and Michael Tudor Barnes (4) (s)

Advertisement for Wessex Roof system. Text: 'If you've got a flat roof you need the Wessex Roof system'. Includes an illustration of a person working on a roof and contact information for Wessex Roof.

- VARIATIONS
12.00 The Other Side of Midnight 12.30m Films Lapsack 2.20 UK
12.30 Europe's Top 15 3.45 Best of the Best Club 4.45-5.00 Jobholder.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

| MARKETS | |
|------------------|------------------|
| FT 30 Share | 1483.2 (+3.5) |
| FT-SE 100 | 1857.6 (+2.5) |
| USM (Datastream) | 160.91 (+1.44) |
| THE POUND | |
| US dollar | 1.7065 (-0.0035) |
| W German mark | 3.0973 (-0.0277) |
| Trade-weighted | 75.2 (-0.3) |

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

SIB post for Pru director

Mr Derek Fellows, a director and chief actuary at the Prudential Corporation, has been appointed a director of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB). He becomes a non-executive director of the SIB from August 1, but takes on the job full-time later this year. His appointment is for three years. The SIB board has 15 members but until now only the posts of chairman and chief executive have been full-time ones.

MSI disposal

MS International has sold its mining equipment subsidiary to Dobson Park Industries for £12.5 million in cash in exchange for Dobson selling its 28.3 per cent interest in MS's shares to institutional shareholders. MS also revealed full-year pretax profits of £3.87 million (£1.06 million). The dividend was raised by 1.3p to 3.3p. *Tempus, page 24*

Tyzack sale

WA Tyzack, the engineer, has sold a property in Hamburg occupied by its March purchase, Alfred Gutmann, for DM3.15 million (£1 million). The proceeds will reduce borrowings taken on by Tyzack on buying Gutmann.

STOCK MARKETS

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| New York Dow Jones | 2129.09 (+7.17) |
| Nikkei Average | 27789.40 (+162.07) |
| Hong Kong Hang Seng | 2671.49 (+23.27) |
| Amsterdam Gon | 263.8 (+1.2) |
| Sydney AO | 1551.3 (-9.3) |
| Frankfurt Commerzbank | 1435.1 (+2.5) |
| Geneva General | 4979.1 (+8.0) |
| Paris CAC | 357.0 (+2.2) |
| Zurich SIKAG | 488.5 (-1.5) |
| London FT-A All-Share | 963.01 (+2.11) |
| FT-SE 100 | 1857.6 (+2.5) |
| FT Gold Mines | 1052.7 (+1.1) |
| FT Fixed Interest | 97.56 (-0.04) |
| FT Govt Secs | 87.92 (-0.02) |

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| BPB Industries | 275p (+13p) |
| Bond Motors | 75p (+21p) |
| S Miller | 152p (+15p) |
| Colson's | 125p (+15p) |
| Western Motor | 58p (+16p) |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| London Bank Base | 9% |
| 3-month interbank 10/10 | 10% |
| 3-month mortgage bills | 9.5% |
| US Prime Rate | 9% |
| Federal Funds | 7% |
| 3-month Treasury Bills | 6.57-6.55% |
| 30-year bonds | 10.2-10.2% |

CURRENCIES

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| London: | New York: |
| \$: 1.7065 | £: \$1.7090 |
| DM: 3.0973 | £: DM1.9170 |
| S: 155.13 | £: S155.13 |
| Y: 163.33 | £: Y163.33 |
| A: 200.48 | £: A200.48 |
| ECU: 1.3660 | £: ECU1.3660 |

GOLD

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| London Fixing: | AH \$436.85 pm-\$436.55 |
| close | \$435.50-\$436.00 (\$255.50) |
| New York: | Comex \$436.50-\$437.00 |

NORTH SEA OIL

West (Aug) per \$14.80 (\$14.80)
*Denotes latest trading price

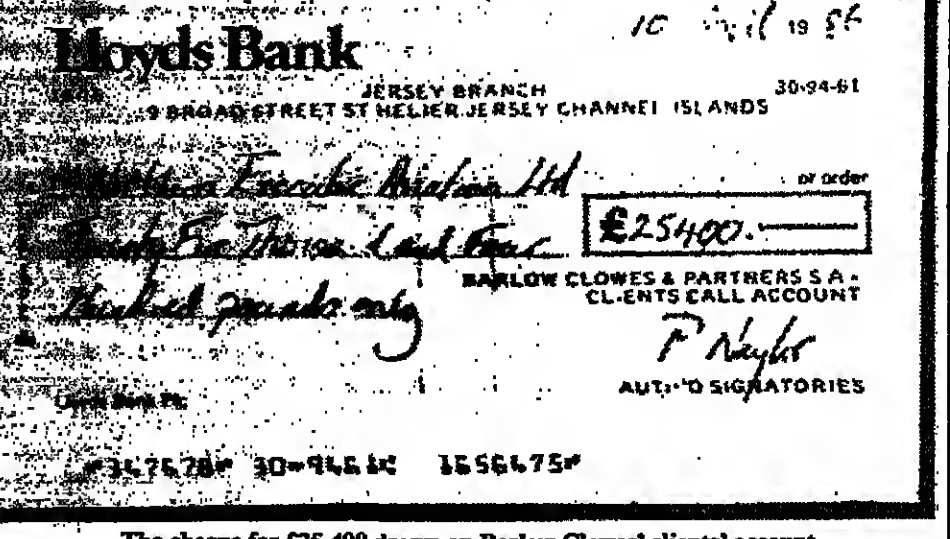
STOCK WATCH

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: a 30 per cent expansion pushed Courts Furnishers (01660) up 28p while press comment boosted James Wilkes (02263) 17p and Aronson Group (03187) soared 16p after bid terms. London and Metropolitan (03016) won the County Hall development contract and shot up 9p. Recent additions include: Hi-tech Sports 03333; Reject Shop 03340; British Sugar 18% deb 03334. Calls are charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Irregular payments found Liquidator of Clowes may sue Lloyds

By Lawrence Lever

A multi-million pound legal action against Lloyds Bank is being contemplated by lawyers acting for the liquidators of Barlow Clowes International in Gibraltar. This follows the discovery of a series of irregular payments made from a Barlow Clowes account with Lloyds in Jersey. The account was intended to hold investors' money and was clearly designated as a "clients" account. The payments from the bank account with Lloyds in St Helier, Jersey, were made over several years. They included payments for the hire of private jets, as well as for personal expenditure by directors of Barlow Clowes, the crashed investment group. However, the account concerned, number 1656475, is clearly marked "Barlow Clowes & Partners SA Clients Call Account". This was the principal bank account where investors in Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar arm of Barlow Clowes, had their money sent. The money was supposed to be invested in British government securities. Instead, millions of pounds have been diverted for irregular purposes. One example being investigated is a payment of £25,400 which came out of the "Barlow Clowes & Partners SA Clients Call Account." It was payable to a company called Northern Executive Aviation Ltd. The cheque, dated April 10, 1986, is signed by Dr Peter Naylor, one of the authorized signatories. Dr Naylor was closely involved with Barlow Clowes until his resignation from the company last year. Ernst & Whinney, the joint liquidator of Barlow Clowes International, recently obtained a High Court order freezing the assets of two companies which have been linked to Dr Naylor. Mr Isaac Marrache, the solicitor for Ernst & Whinney, pointed to the frequency and number of the irregular payments from the Lloyds account. He said yesterday: "Lloyds Bank should have known what was happening. The Bank and the Jersey authorities should have taken more care. The question will be whether they owe a duty to the people who have been prejudiced." Marrache & Co obtained a court order last week allowing it to take proceedings to locate and recover some £14 million still in the Jersey bank account with Lloyds. However, Mr Marrache pointed out that he deliberately sought and obtained a wide-ranging order, which would enable the BCI liquidators to sue Lloyds to recover money that should not have been paid out of the account. A Lloyds spokesman said the bank was co-operating with the BCI liquidators - a view not shared by Mr Marrache. Midland Bank has also come under scrutiny since one of its banks in Jersey handled money belonging to investors in BCI. However, while investigators are seeking evidence of irregular payments, it is believed that all payments from Midland went into the Lloyds bank account. At least £138 million was invested in BCI. Apart from any legal action by the liquidators, the investors may also have a cause of action against the bank. There are legal precedents involving mistaken payments - or wrongful payments out of a client's account - which appear to provide support for a legal action against the bank.



Buckley's shares suspended

By Colin Campbell

Shares of Buckley's Brewery, in which Mr Peter Clowes and Mr Guy von Cramer took a controlling stake last October - but whose 53 per cent holding has been assumed by Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank - were suspended from the Stock Exchange lists yesterday at 16.00. The Welsh brewery said, through its newly appointed merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell, that results for the nine months ended December originally due to be announced on Wednesday - had not yet been finalized. In order to avoid a false market in the shares, the company had made a request to the stock exchange for a temporary suspension. The delay is understood to concern the classification of extraordinary and exceptional items, which could affect the final outcome. Results from Buckley's are now expected in two to three weeks, and until they are announced the shares will remain suspended. Buckley's suffered further boardroom resignations yesterday, following the resignation of Mr von Cramer this week. Mr Andrew Lindsay, the corporate director, and Mr Andrew Fletcher, the finance director, resigned their Buckley's directorships in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest. Mr Lindsay and Mr Fletcher are associates of Mr von Cramer. Both are connected - along with Mr von Cramer who is a director - with Bracken Nominees, which was included in a court injunction last week freezing Mr von Cramer's assets.

Opec wrangles push oil below \$13

The tussle among members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to increase their individual share of a dwindling market has forced spot oil prices in the Far East to under \$13 a barrel and the North Sea oil price in London to under \$15. There is increased speculation that a further fall in prices will force Dr Subroto, the former Indonesian oil minister and the newly-appointed general secretary of Opec, to call a meeting of the organization's price monitoring committee within the next two weeks. Dr Subroto said that, if necessary, he would call a meeting of the five-member committee made up of the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela. Most oil traders are now convinced that the downward spiral will continue unless Opec members make a public display of sticking to their quotas and end the recent round of price discounting.

Savoy rallies troops against Trusthouse Forte Small investors hold key to the door

By Cliff Feltham

Shareholders in the luxury Savoy Hotel group, many unversed in high finance, will today be asked to pass judgement on allegations of financial chicanery stretching back 18 years. The way they cast their votes could decide the future of the company. They can either clear the way for a full takeover of the company by its long-term predators Trusthouse Forte, or they can back the board and allow the establishment to remain independent for at least another 100 years. The bitter wrangle between the two companies has erupted into the open over a transaction entered into by Sir Hugh Wontner, the Savoy's former chairman, in 1970. Lord Forte, the Trusthouse Forte chairman - eagerly backed by his heir Rocco Forte - has spent £250,000 on legal fees to get to the truth of the deal. Savoy has spent twice that amount defending its position. At stake is a hotel group embracing the Savoy, Berkeley,



Waiting for the City's views: Sir John Read at the TSB headquarters yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris)

TSB rise fails to impress City

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The TSB Group failed to stir the stock market yesterday despite a higher-than-expected interim pretax profit for the 26 weeks to April 30 of £212.2 million, an increase of 29.3 per cent. After allowing for £25 million in profits on sales of gilt-edged stock, compared with £17 million last year, and a change in accounting for insurance operations, the results were in line with market expectations and the shares closed unchanged at 108p. The results included a restatement of insurance profits on a new "value added" basis designed to bring forward profits which would otherwise be spread over several years. This added a one-off £23 million to profits this year and £19 million to last year's interim result calculated on the same basis. TSB said that the new method of accounting was fairer and gave shareholders a clearer picture of actual insurance profits in any year. The interim result was depressed this time primarily because of the effect of the stock market crash. Presenting the last set of results before his retirement, Sir John Read, the chairman, said that TSB was considering buying Girobank, the Post Office-linked bank which the Government is aiming to sell by the end of this year. It had indicated its interest, but serious bidding for Girobank has despite difficult market conditions since last October, causing no dilution of the group's earnings. Sir John insisted that Hill Samuel's corporate finance department had performed particularly well, with a net addition of new clients since it became part of the group. The TSB's banking operations produced a 39 per cent rise in profits, from £85.9 million to £119.4 million as lending to home buyers and commercial customers surged. Including Hill Samuel, advances rose by 38.5 per cent. The group's other main profit centre, insurance and investment services, showed an increase of 42 per cent to £49.4 million. *Tempus, page 24*

De Savary looks at shipyard

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Peter de Savary's Highland Participants is closely studying a possible takeover of the Devon half of British Shipbuilders' Appledore-Ferguson yard, but is understood not to want the Scottish part based at Port Glasgow, industry sources said yesterday. In another development, Mr William Scott, the chief executive of BS's deeply troubled North East Shipbuilders (NESL) on Wearside, said that he and Mr Joseph Knowles, the managing director at Clark Kincaid on the Clyde, hoped to finalize a buyout deal for Clark Kincaid next week. BS confirmed approaches over Clark Kincaid and Appledore had been made. It is understood that both moves are being taken seriously with a good chance of succeeding. Highland, whose shares were suspended on Monday pending an announcement, is expected to unveil a package of deals soon, which could include Appledore. The Devon yard, sited on the Torridge Estuary, has been seen as one of the easier BS yards to dispose of. The turnover with Port Glasgow is about £25 million. Lloyds Bank yesterday denied reports that it was working on the £100 million finance for an order from Cuba for 10 cargo ships for the order-starved NESL.

Pressure rises for 10% base rate

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

A half-point rise in base rates to 10 per cent moved closer last night, as money market rates firmed after a Bundesbank-led round of European interest rate increases. The pound slumped by nearly three pennings to below DM3.10, removing an important constraint on the authorities. Dealers expect the Bank of England to delay until next week the fifth increase in base rates in the current attempt to tighten policy - but a move could come today. The Bundesbank increased its official discount rate from 2.5 to 3 per cent, and also raised the rate for its new securities repurchase pact, to be carried out next week, from 3.5 to 3.75 per cent. Central banks of Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands also raised key interest rates. The pound was still affected by the record trade deficit for May, and reassuring comments from the Chancellor on the current account had little impact. The pound closed 2.8 pennings down at DM3.0973, and fell by a third of a cent to \$1.7065. The sterling index fell by 0.3 of a point to 75.2. In the money markets, the three-month interbank rate closed at 10 1/4 per cent, up 1/4 of a point on the day and clearly discounting a 10 per cent level of base rates. *Comment, page 25*



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Triplex Lloyd doubles its results to £4.58m

Triplex Lloyd, the West Midlands engineering, building components and services group, shows more than doubled pre-tax profits of £4.58 million (£2.06 million) for the year ended March 31. The final dividend rises from 2.5p to 3.25p a share, making 4.5p (3.25p) for the year.

A divisional breakdown of pre-interest profits shows building components contributed £2.32 million, foundries £1.95 million, engineering and services £1.28 million, and steel £323,000. Continuing prospects for increased profits are excellent, the board says, adding that the "future for the company is bright". Shareholders are to be given the opportunity to receive dividends in the form of shares rather than cash. The shares were steady at 195p on results.

McAlpine in £2.4m sell-off

Alfred McAlpine is selling two timber businesses to Phoenix Timber for £2.4 million. Phoenix will retain the management of the companies. CH Smith and Charles Jones, which will operate from Strake-on-Trent. Intergroup loans of £1.6 million will be repaid. McAlpine is to concentrate on construction, house-building and minerals.

Estate agent jumps 82%

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the commercial estate agent, raised pre-tax profits by 82 per cent to £5.4 million for the year just ended. Turnover went up by 23 per cent to £20.8 million. Earnings per share are 12.64p against 7.42p, an increase of 70 per cent. Shareholders collect a final dividend of 3.5p making a total for the year of 5p.

TNT Pacific issue

TNT Pacific Finance is issuing a Aus\$150 million (£69.57 million) convertible Eurobond due on July 27, 1998 with an indicated coupon of 9 per cent and par pricing. The issue is guaranteed by TNT. The expected conversion premium is 15 per cent to 16 per cent. Final terms will be set by next Friday.

The issue is callable at 105 per cent falling by 1 per cent per annum to par, but is not callable for five years unless the share price exceeds the conversion price by 130 per cent. The issue is available in denominations of Aus\$5,000 and Aus\$25,000 and will be listed in Luxembourg.

Broker shuts NZ office

Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, said in Wellington yesterday that it was leaving New Zealand as part of its decision to cut back internationally. Its Auckland-based office would close on July 31. CSV, which opened its new Zealand office last July, is the 11th broker to close there since the October crash.

Meyer update to cost £14m

Meyer International is spending £14 million on installing a computerized information system at Jewson, its chain of timber and builders' merchants, to be completed early in the next decade. Computers will be located at each Jewson branch to support VDUs and point of sale terminals. The central computer at Jewson's Norwich head office will be replaced.

\$173m sale by Bond

Bond Corporation Holdings said in Perth, Australia, that its US subsidiary, G Heileman Brewing Co, had completed the sale of its baking operation to RT Holdings, the Belgian sugar producer, for US\$173.5 million (£101.5 million).

Bond had announced the sale in May but did not disclose the price, beyond saying Heileman sold both its baking and snack food operations for a price equivalent to Aus\$250 million. It then declined to name the snack food operation's buyer. Proceeds will be used to reduce the acquisition debt for Heileman, Bond said.

Dull TSB holds long-term promise

The TSB Group's achievement over the last 18 months should not be underestimated — wrenching itself away from a cosy but limited existence as a savings bank towards a riskier and more complex life as a diversified financial services company.

Inevitably, it has been difficult to know how to treat the group. Every set of TSB results is so peppered with pro forma figures, after the latest acquisition or accounting change, that making sensible comparisons with the last lot of results is a nightmare.

This should be less of a problem from now on. Further big acquisitions are unlikely, and the TSB hopes its accounting methods have now settled into a more permanent form. This includes the somewhat suspect change to value-added accounting on the life insurance side.

Yet the TSB still fails to inspire. The 29 per cent increase in interim profits is respectable, not dramatic. It was considerably helped by profits on gilt-edged sales of some £25 million — about £10 million more than the market had expected.

Not too surprising, then, that the share price failed to move up from the 108p opening level. With full-year profit prospects of anything

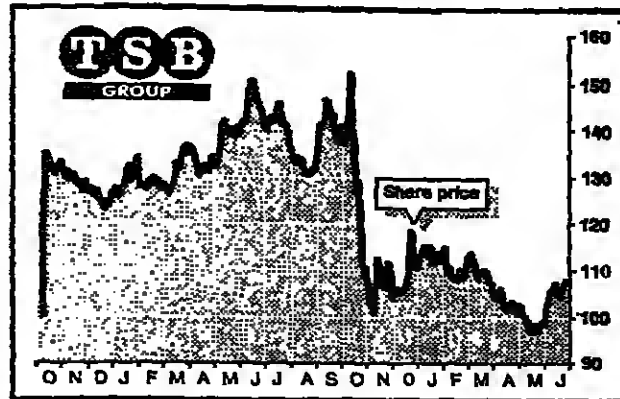
up to £450 million, and earnings per share of about 19p, the TSB is on an undemanding p/e of less than 6. It is not unattractive, but nothing to shout about.

On the other hand, there are stirrings of a TSB appreciation society emerging in the stock market, based on an assessment of long-term performance. Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers is optimistically predicting a pre-tax profit of more than £1 billion by 1992, with earnings per share growth twice that of the other cleaners.

Through this kind of long-term view is alien to most of the stock market these days, it may be the right approach for a bank in such transition. It assumes, for example, that the TSB's costs will cease to rise at the annual 15 to 20 per cent rate of recent years. The current rise is mainly the result of new business development and acquisitions.

The TSB has a portfolio of attractive businesses. It paid too much for Hill Samuel, but the merchant bank has turned in a creditable performance this time and seems to be fitting well into the group.

Insurance operations are also strong, while the basic branch banking business continues to move ahead at least in line with its peers. The TSB likes to say Yes — but you have to be very patient.



MS Int

Some deals, they say, are made in heaven. Simultaneously selling MS International's mining equipment division to Dobson Park Industries and dispersing Dobson Park's 28.3 per cent shareholding in MS International looks like one of them.

At a stroke, Dobson gets the part of MS it really wanted when it launched its unsuccessful bid this year, while MS gets an attractive price for what it clearly regarded as a millstone around its neck. Meanwhile, the threat that Dobson might come back for another bite at the MS cherry next March has gone.

MS's profits from mining equipment had been declining since 1986 when the contribution after interest charges and before tax peaked at £2.1 million. In the year just ended, the profit contribution had fallen to just £635,000. MS would have to be very inept indeed not to be able to improve on this just by putting its £7.6 million of net cash sale receipts on deposit.

But the cash is unlikely to remain on deposit for long. Initially, acquisitions will be in areas related to its remaining divisions, defence and electrical equipment and mechanical engineering. Since they will be made for cash, there will be an immediate impact on the earnings per share. But it is clear that MS

will not be content to stop there and will be looking to new areas to achieve its ambition of a market valuation of £100 million within five years. The analysts are looking for the group to make £4.5 million pre-tax this year, a 16 per cent increase on the year just ended. The prospective multiple is just 9.8 and the shares should enjoy a re-rating as its acquisition programme starts.

BPB

At first glance, the figures from BPB Industries were a trifle disappointing. Against the backdrop of a mild British winter and strong demand, many expected a stronger performance, hence the 5 per cent drop in the share price.

Yet exceptional factors, such as the write-down of a Zimbabwean business and the relocation of a British paper products unit, reduced profits by a couple of million pounds while a price war in The Netherlands further dented paper and packaging results.

With a March year-end, BPB was poorly placed for translating overseas earnings and suffered a £7 million reduction in pre-tax profits. This was offset by an eight-month contribution of £6.5 million from Rigips in West Germany.

Demand for plasterboard throughout Europe is well up. The British market has been especially strong and is showing no signs of abating.

Last year, British volumes were 13 per cent up and a similar increase has been experienced so far this year. Thus, with an April price increase already under its belt, BPB should continue to make sound progress.

Even so, if dull commodities such as cement have seen volume rises of 16 per cent so far this year, some might consider BPB's performance pedestrian.

The competition is hotting up but the buoyancy of the market should allow everyone to make a reasonable living.

Despite spending £70 million on fixed assets last year, BPB improved its balance sheet, which now contains £50 million of net cash.

The threat of competition in its primary market has eroded BPB's premium rating and, to date, there is no sign of this being recovered.

Yet, even at the lower end of the wide spectrum of 1988-89 forecasts, ranging between £205 million and £240 million, the shares are selling on a p/e ratio of only 8.6 times. There may be some scope for modest appreciation from these levels.

Swiss insider trading law takes effect today

Zurich (Reuters) — A new law making insider trading a criminal offence in Switzerland comes into effect today following the US Securities and Exchange Commission investigations into Swiss links with possible illegal dealings in American stocks.

So far this year, the SEC has asked Switzerland for assistance in investigating six cases of possible insider trading, said Mr Peter Forstmoser, a law professor who heads an independent Swiss panel that oversees the SEC requests.

In 1983 Switzerland agreed to co-operate with the SEC on investigating alleged insider trading in US stocks via Swiss banks.

This allowed American regulators to obtain Swiss legal assistance in lifting its strict bank secrecy rules to

track down alleged insider cases.

The most famous of this year's cases involves possible insider trading in Sterling Drug Inc shortly before the Swiss chemical company, F Hoffmann-La Roche & Co, launched a \$4.2 billion (£2.49 billion) hostile takeover bid on January 4.

Mr Forstmoser, who has led the campaign for making insider trading a criminal offence for more than a decade, declined to identify the other five investigations, but said they were minor, not involving well-known companies.

Mr Anton Keller, a spokesman for the Swiss Investors Protection Association, called the new law a "lex Americana" that the US had forced on Switzerland.

France's senior service

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's poor performance in training extends to service industries as well as manufacturing, according to a report out today from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The report, based on a study of training in retailing in Britain and France, concludes that nine times the number of retailing employees have attained an equivalent training qualification in France compared with Britain.

A similar study, published this year, found that Britain lagged well behind in training engineering craftsmen and technicians, with France producing three times the number of trained fitters and electricians as Britain.

The authors of the retailing study, *Two Nations of Shopkeepers: Training for Retailing*

in France and Britain, concede that success in retailing often owes as much to personal qualities as technical qualifications.

However, they add, the breadth and high standards of retail training in France are impressive and, unlike in Britain, training there includes relevant details of individual products and how to present them.

"The reason British shop assistants so often know hardly anything about what they are selling is that no one has ever taught them," the report says.

The report criticizes British training standards in this area for their limited scope. Qualifications are said to be mainly skill-based — for example handling cheques correctly

— but exclude broader educational objectives.

"The French system regards vocational courses as a means of raising the general educational standards of many who would otherwise not benefit from any form of education after compulsory schooling, and of those who have fallen behind while at school.

"The object is to provide preparation not only for the immediate job of the trainee, but also to provide him or her with a better basis for subsequent jobs in a technologically evolving world."

The danger with training in Britain is that it will produce a "certificated semi-literate underclass" the report says, with limited flexibility and limited possibilities for progress.

P&O sets up ADR facility

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), the big shipping-toiletries group, announced yesterday that it had established a sponsored American Depository Receipt (ADR) facility to make overseas trading in its shares easier.

Each American Depository Receipt will represent two units of the company's deferred stock.

The American Depository Receipts will be traded on the over-the-counter market in the United States to begin with.

P&O's charter limits foreign ownership of its shares to 25 per cent, but only 4 per cent is currently in the hands of foreign owners.

"A YEAR OF NOTABLE ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS"

Richard Lay, Chairman



"This has been a most successful year for Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks. In July 1987 we became a public company and in the year to 30th April 1988 our turnover increased to £20.8 million, and our pre-tax profits rose by 82%.

Highlights have included the opening of a London Docklands office and our selection as joint letting agents on the offices within



Bancroft House, Paternoster Square, London EC4P 4ET.

the Canary Wharf development. We have also strengthened our national network with the acquisition of a leading West Midlands practice, now renamed Debenham Tewson Cheshire.

I believe that the Company is well placed to take advantage of the buoyant property market, itself a result of Britain's economic recovery."

Steel writ delayed

By Colin Narbrough

The heads of the West German steel industry have delayed a decision on whether to start legal action against the huge subsidies paid to British Steel, and have given their lawyers more time to "fine-tune" a draft writ.

This emerged yesterday after a meeting of the steel chiefs on Wednesday which had been expected to decide whether the industry would proceed with its threatened law suit against the European Commission.

West Germany's largely private sector steel industry sees the £8.3 billion paid to BS in subsidy as a breach of Community law as it allows a debt-free and streamlined BS to compete unfairly against West German mills.

Under EEC procedure, the West Germans have until about the middle of this month to submit the writ to the European Court of Justice, after the rejection of a complaint to Brussels.

COMPANY BRIEFS

HEY & CROFT (int)
Pre-tax: £0.35 (£0.24)m
EPS: 3.08 (2.4)p
Div: 1.5 (nil)p

CHEMOXY INTNL (fin)
Pre-tax: £0.56 (£0.44)m
EPS: 18.3 (14.2)p
Div: 3.9 mkg 5.75p

STANCO (fin)
Pre-tax: £0.81 (£0.34)m
EPS: 2.70 (1.07)p
Div: nil

STAKS (fin)
Pre-tax: £0.23 (£0.10)m
EPS: 0.85 (0.41)p
Div: nil

SYLTONE (fin)
Pre-tax: £1.66 (£1.21)m
EPS: 26.43 (21.34)p
Div: 7.5 (6.4)p

WALKER & STAFF (fin)
Pre-tax: £3.50 (£3.63)m
EPS: 9.7 (12.0)p
Div: 2.5 (2.2)p

THROUGH TRUST (int)
Pre-tax: £4.79 (£4.00)m
EPS: 5.75 (4.69)p
Div: 4 (2.75)p

Turnover £5.50 (£4.64)m.
Product demands remain strong. New sites purchased. Planning permission for 181 units.

Turnover £7.74 (£6.72)m.
Company trading consistently well, with expectations for a successful year of growth.

Turnover £8.34 (£3.31)m. If thought fit, the board will pay 0.4p dividend in September.

Turnover £6.89 (£4.63)m.
Current trading at existing 24 shops is good. Board expects further year of progress.

Turnover £24.73 (£22.93)m.
Manufacture of new products in Britain & US progressing well.

Turnover £6.70 (£5.89)m.

NAV 523.1 (572.8)p.
Company anticipates total dividend to be not less than that of previous year.

HK set to impose reform on market

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government will bring in new laws to control the Stock Exchange if the Crown Colony's stockbrokers refuse to accept the recommendations of the Securities Review Committee.

The brokers are due to meet on July 20 to discuss the findings of the hard-hitting report. They will be asked to vote on a proposal to turn their powerful committee into a Stock Exchange council which will include outsiders for the first time.

But if the stockbrokers do not come up with the 75 per cent majority needed to pass the proposal, the government is prepared to use its legislative powers to clean up the exchange, which the Hay Davison report said was run like "a private club" before the stock market crash.

The government threat follows criticism of the report by the Hong Kong Stockbrokers Association, which has already issued a circular to its members suggesting they should not vote to abolish their committee.

The chairman of the association, Mr Henry Wu, said the

report was contradictory in some areas and "too idealistic".

The association does not want its powerful Stock Exchange management committee, now dominated by local Chinese stockbrokers, to be opened up to outside experts and overseas brokers, something the review committee felt was vital to restore confidence in Hong Kong as a serious financial centre.

The committee suggested the formation of a new council with 22 members: one would be the chief executive, 16 would be individual and corporate brokers, and five would be independent members, of whom at least one should be a director of a listed company and one a fund manager.

The government has decided that the new chairman of the Stock Exchange will be one of the five lay members, ideally a Chinese "elder statesman" who will instil confidence in the new council.

Mr Wu said: "We think it is unnecessary to have lay members directly involved in the council's business."

Banks 'over-exposed'

A number of banks and other financial institutions in Hong Kong were over-exposed to customers with margin accounts at the time of the October crash, said Mr Tony Nicolle, the banking commissioner.

Mr Nicolle said in his 1987 annual report that 4 per cent, or HK\$14 billion (£1.05 billion), of all loans outstanding

in Hong Kong at the end of October were to margin customers. The figures were "disturbingly large," he said.

Credit extended to stockbrokers, not including loans to margin customers, totalled HK\$10.5 billion. But Mr Nicolle said that for most institutions, the problems arising from the crash were contained within their income.

RECENT ISSUES

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For a copy of the 1988 Annual Report & Accounts. To be sent to all existing shareholders on 29th July 1988, please telephone or on 01-295 1570 or write to the Company Secretary at the address above. This advertisement has been approved for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. It must be stressed that the value of investments can fall as well as rise and that the past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

STOCK MARKET

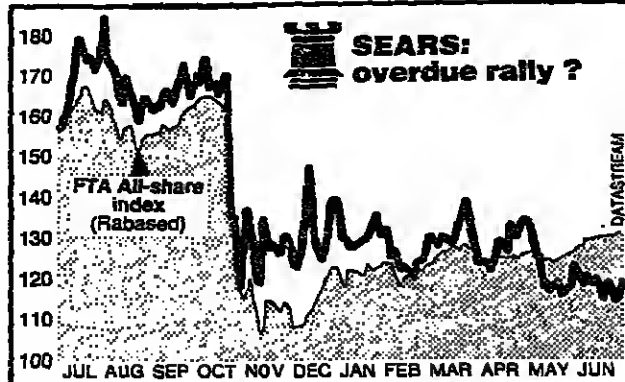
Packer may hold stake in Pilkington

Mr Kerry Packer, who has taken over the title of Australia's richest man from rival Mr Robert Holmes & Court following the stock market crash, is believed to have taken a shine to Pilkington, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer.

The Pilkington price firmed by a further 3p to 215p yesterday as almost 2.5 million shares changed hands amid claims that Mr Packer had already picked up more than 30 million shares during the past few weeks and could soon be approaching the declarable 5 per cent level.

Dealers said this theory might explain the recent flurry of support for Pilkington - despite a disappointing set of full-year figures last month. These showed pre-tax profits up by 18 per cent to £302 million but earnings per share only a meagre 7 per cent higher.

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance house, suffered a setback in after-hours trading, tumbling 15p to £10.25 at one stage, before rallying to close a net 2p lower at £10.38.



opening premium of 16p. Takeover speculation and recent comments from Mr Nick Bubb, a stores analyst at Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, declaring that a re-rating of the sector is overdue, helped to push aside worries about higher interest rates.

Shares of TV South were suspended at 330p first thing yesterday, pending an announcement. Whispers in the market-place claim they are likely to stay frozen for at least three weeks while the group puts together the finishing touches of a big acquisition within the television industry.

One dealer said: "If a consortium or management bid does not materialize, the shares will be trading at nearer the 125p-130p level." Great Universal Stores, Britain's biggest mail order group and owner of Burberrys, which holds an important 23 per cent stake in HQ, advanced in sympathy.

Shares of TV South were suspended at 330p first thing yesterday, pending an announcement. Whispers in the market-place claim they are likely to stay frozen for at least three weeks while the group puts together the finishing touches of a big acquisition within the television industry.

YK Pao's Wharf Holdings, the cash-rich, Hong Kong-based property group. Ward White, the Halfords to Payless do-it-yourself retailing group, headed by Mr Philip Birch, closed 3p dearer at 306p following the bullish statement at the annual meeting.

Shares of Yale and Valor, the security locks to hardware group, continued to advance closing a further 9p higher at 381p as stake-building talk intensified.

WALL STREET

Dow edges ahead in early trading

New York (Reuter) - Shares were steady at higher levels in early trading yesterday. With the second quarter weekend ahead - the market is closed on Monday for Independence Day - traders reported that they expected few new commitments before next week. Trading was quiet.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Alcoa, Amstar, and Amgen. Columns include company name, price, and change.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table of Canadian stock prices for companies like Agnico, Alcan, and Barrick. Columns include company name, price, and change.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of traditional options for companies like Alcoa, Amstar, and Amgen. Columns include company name, price, and change.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table of alpha stocks for companies like Alcoa, Amstar, and Amgen. Columns include company name, price, and change.

Petrified Americans leave the bargains to Japan

Conditions for bonds have turned almost ideal. Grain and soybean futures prices came tumbling down on Wednesday, the dollar recovered any losses made on European central bank intervention on Tuesday; crude oil tumbled under \$15.50 (£9.08), and gold fell to \$436.

remarkable stability that has marked its progress in the past year. This extraordinary performance for the metal, combined as it has been since last year with a stable dollar and no acceleration of inflation in the US, is bound to pose the question: "Have we moved to some sort of de facto gold standard?"

US Bonds. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond is about 8.95 per cent - well below the range of 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent. Today they are routinely trading about 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent.

weight of Japanese money. The Japanese are not truly interested in the inflation debate in the US. Their interest is in the level of nominal yields available and the outlook for the currency.

to date they have committed to US paper only a fraction of what they took out in the last half of 1987 and the first quarter of 1988. The big swing in capital flow back to the US can, therefore, be expected to have quite some distance to run.

US BONDS

US Bonds. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond is about 8.95 per cent - well below the range of 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent. Today they are routinely trading about 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options for companies like Alcoa, Amstar, and Amgen. Columns include company name, price, and change.

Broadwell Land Plc advertisement. Includes text: 'Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission to deal in the entire share capital of Broadwell Land Plc, issued and to be issued, in the Unlisted Securities Market of The Stock Exchange. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to the Official List.' Includes a table of share capital and contact information for Phillips & Drew Securities Limited.

Kleinwort Benson advertisement. Text: 'Kleinwort Benson Limited announces that with effect from 1st July 1988, the mortgage base rate will be 10.4% per annum and the personal loan base rate will be 9.4% per annum.' Includes logo for Kleinwort Benson.

New rates for Business Overdrafts advertisement. Text: 'New rates for Business Overdrafts. With effect from 27 June 1988, the monthly rates of interest applicable to Business Overdrafts are as follows: Previous Rate, New Rate, Typical A.P.R. 1.15%, 1.2%, 15.30%. 1.25%, 1.3%, 16.7%.' Includes logo for Lloyds Bank.

On the 25th anniversary of the Marchwood Engineering Laboratory, Pearce Wright reviews the industry

Big savings lift morale as the sell-off looms

A five-year audit by the Central Electricity Generating Board shows its research division made direct savings of £1,800 million from its work and equal economies in indirect benefits. The investigation into the cost-effectiveness of spending on research was a unique exercise in an industrial organization.

But its conclusions must be a welcome boost for the morale of more than 2,000 graduate scientists, engineers and support staff who form the teams of problem-solvers in the board's research division, which faces uncertainties with privatization on the horizon.

It also provides a timely bouquet to mark the 25th anniversary of the Marchwood Engineering Laboratories, one of the CEGB's three main research centres.

Within the research family, Marchwood is sometimes referred to as the Big Rig, reflecting that the site, near Southampton, was chosen for the space available to build full-scale replicas to test structures for new power-station designs and their machinery.

With 110 graduate research officers and 320 support staff, Marchwood is, in numbers, the smallest of the research triad. Next comes the Berkeley Laboratories, in Gloucestershire, where 95 per cent of the activities are dedicated to nuclear energy questions.

The largest of the group is the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, at Leatherhead, Surrey.

Solving problems affecting any aspect of electrical power generation, construction and transmission calls for close collaboration between research centres and their clients, who are the operators of the power stations.

In the period since the research division was formed 30 years ago, the conundrums to be resolved have increased in complexity as power stations have grown bigger, and as environmental factors and safety have loomed larger in the equations.

But the latest and most difficult problem they have ever faced is not strictly speaking a technical one.

Government plans for privatization for the electricity industry have not yet considered the issue of how to farm out the resources of the central research services when the CEGB is turned into Big G (with 75 per cent of power generation, including nuclear), Little G (with 25 per cent of generation) and a transmission company.

Derek Davis, the CEGB board member for research, who will fight the corner for the division when competing for resources, says the industry will need the same direct access to first-class research and development as it does now.

The research division is run on a "matrix" management concept. The management head of each of the laboratories reports to a director of laboratories, Dr Les Mitchell. He evaluates their requirements and prepares budgets.

Three other directors have specific responsibilities for the future interests of the CEGB in a number of broad categories.

In nuclear power, Dr Eric Carpenter covers the spread of research and technology needed to support the Magnox, AGR (advanced gas-cooled reactor) and PWR (pressurized water reactor) designs.

Advances in the efficiency of conventional plant, transmission and control systems are the prime concern of Dr Jim Lawton.

Environment research, and a wider advisory role on long-term strategy to the board, is the responsibility of a group working with Dr Peter Chester.

In effect, Mr Davis and his four directors can be regarded either as the five wise men of research or, perhaps, five men in a boat.

Over the last three years the CEGB has adopted the "customer-contractor principle" for managing research. It operates with the research division regarding the rest of the organization in terms of potential clients.

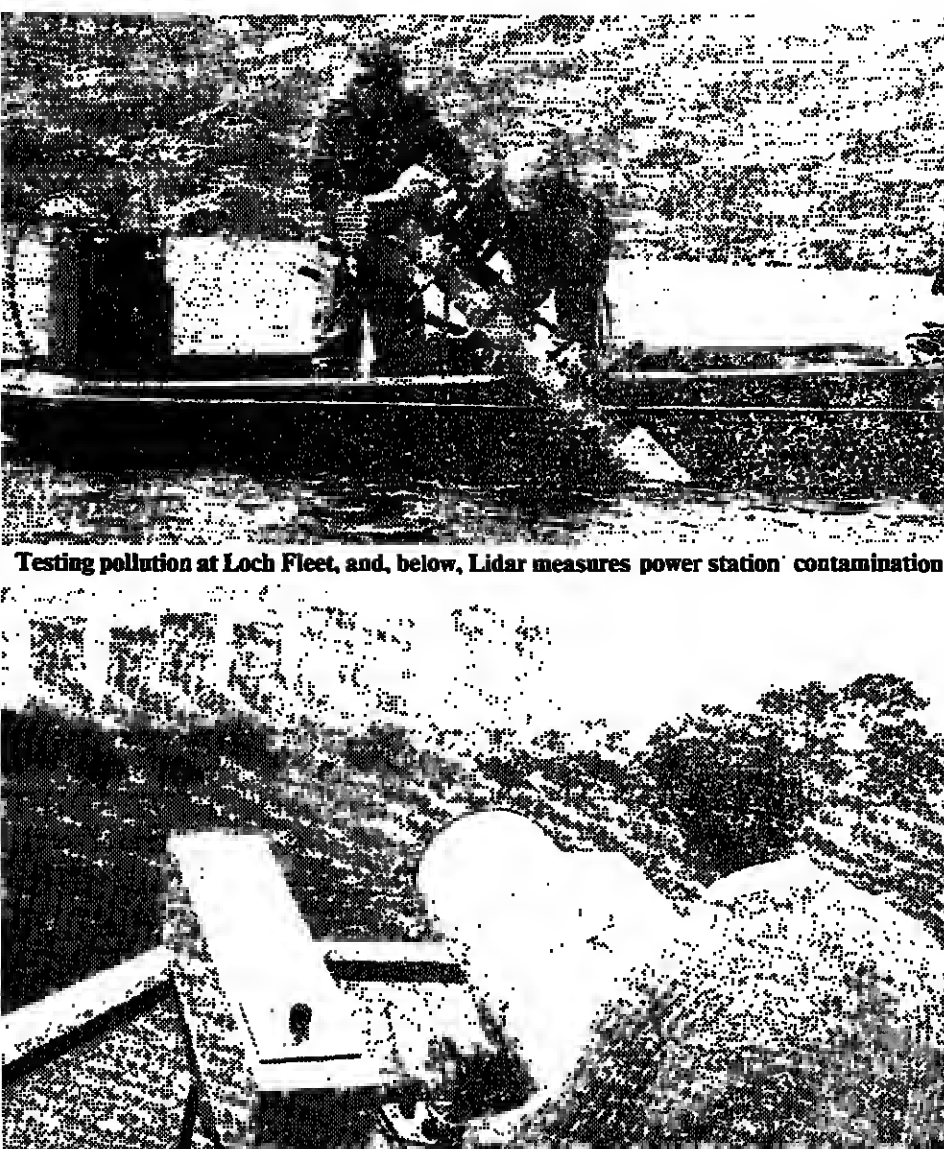
The idea is translated into practice through BOATs, which stands for Business Opportunities and Threats. A BOAT is a mechanism for defining the criteria for any programme of research, development and design.

Mr Davis believes the client-contractor relationship ensures that what is done is required, cost-effective research.

As a part of this process, a client is usually a sponsor for a BOAT proposed by one of the research groups. Each BOAT is broken down into the various elements of the research programme, explaining the reason and objectives of the project.

Each BOAT proposal is reviewed by an appropriate research requirement panel attached to one of the construction, operating or transmission divisions of the board.

Mr Davis calculates that when the cost of design work done by the board is included, the CEGB is spending 2.3 per



Testing pollution at Loch Fleet, and, below, Lidar measures power station contamination

cent of its income on research and development. He believes that compares favourably in international terms with similar types of heavy-engineering enterprises.

Nevertheless, Mr Davis says that in deciding what is necessary for the future, there is a tranche of work for which researchers may not obtain a client. His job is then to get support for that work from other executives on the board.

Much of the environmental work comes into this category because it covers wider and longer term issues than those facing the average client, usually a plant operator, on a day-to-day basis.

In addition to the big central laboratories, several small ones provide direct support to area boards for immediate problem-solving. At sites such as Marchwood and the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, the teams are engaged in a spread of work across every type of fuel. Some groups may be working on nuclear and non-nuclear programmes at the same time.

Hence one of the problems to be faced with the approach of privatization.

There is also another period of transition ahead in the development of nuclear power. More than 40 per cent of the board's research work is devoted to gas-cooled reactor systems, and about 15 per cent to PWRs.

As Sizewell B comes closer, as the first PWR in Britain, there will be a shift in the balance of nuclear work.

Little more than ten years ago, more than half the board's research effort was dedicated to conventional energy generation. Now it copes with about a quarter. In the same period, efforts have doubled on environmental studies.

In the future, Mr Davis sees the focus of work on the conventional side moving toward producing efficient smaller generating systems, as well as to developing cleaner ways of burning coal and to coal "gasification".

The options confronting the directors over the future of the research division include making it part of Big G to form a separate research organization serving the needs of all the companies, as a fully or partly funded organization.

Whatever the structure, Mr Davis says that the newly shaped industry will still have the same kind of technical problems as the present industry.

Switched on to keeping the surrounds clean

The trouble with environmental discussions is that "where fact leaves a vacuum, fantasy floods in," according to Dr Peter Chester, using a line borrowed from the play *Letice and Lovage*.

As director of environmental research for the Central Electricity Generating Board, he must ensure that effective studies are done to understand the ecological impact of solid, liquid and gaseous discharges from power stations.

Over the last 10 years environmental research by the CEGB has doubled to more than £25 million a year. The spotlight of research has broadened to discover the impact of discharges on the environment.

Reflecting the growing concern about acid rain, the member countries of the European Community agreed three weeks ago on plans to curb discharges of sulphur-dioxide and nitrogen oxides. These have important implications for power stations, which in Britain emit about half of the sulphur dioxide from combustion plant and a large portion of the nitrogen oxides.

Though both gases are components of acid rain, their effects on ecology is different. Long-term changes in soil occur with increased levels of sulphur dioxide in acid rain.

The impact is a two-stage process. First, the soil gradually becomes too acidic. Subsequently, the additional acid rain then trickles through the layers of soil and leaches out aluminium, which is bad for fish, into rivers and lakes, rather than calcium which is beneficial to aquatic life.

Concern about nitrogen oxides involves the salt of air pollution that was given the name smog, when it rose to nuisance proportions in Los Angeles 15 years ago.

A photo-chemical reaction triggered by sunlight between nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons produces a secondary pollutant, ozone. Though strenuous efforts are being made to protect the natural belt of ozone in the stratosphere, high concentrations in the lower atmosphere are leading to a new type of forest decline by damaging the leaves and needles of trees.

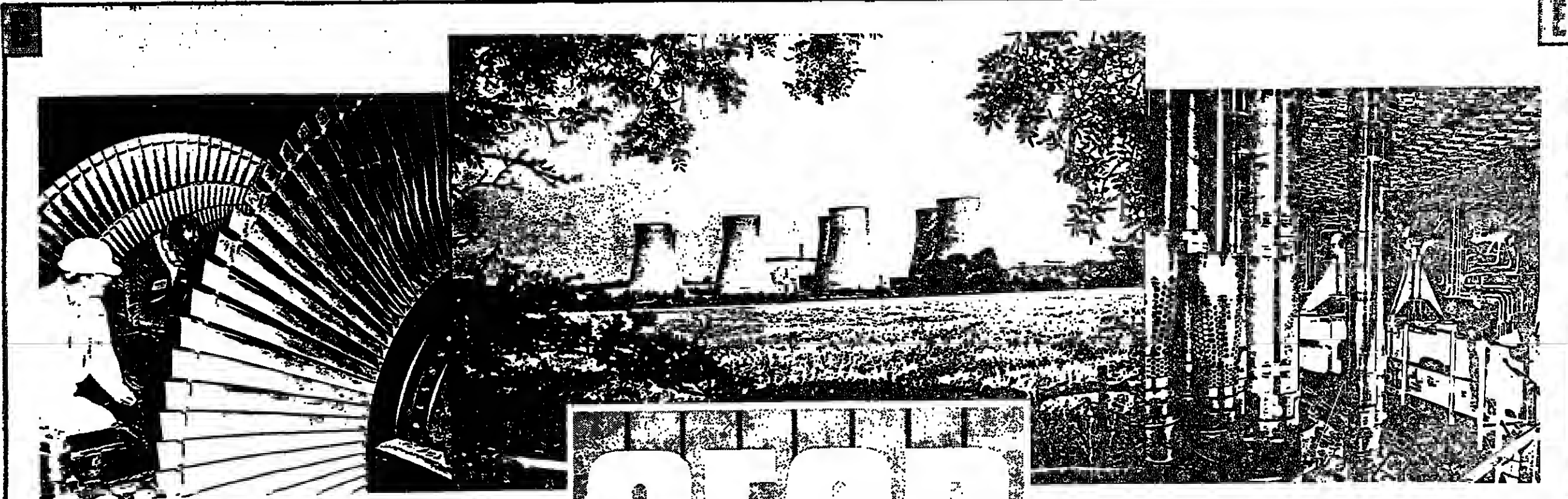
Understanding the mechanics behind the change in soil and the damaged trees is still incomplete. Two broad avenues of work are covered by the board's own research teams. The programmes extend work by environmental physicists at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories into the way dust and gases disperse.


A new atmospheric chemistry section is refining the physical models. The tools of the new team include the photo-chemical reaction chamber, the computer and an airborne chemistry laboratory. The aim is to discover exactly what a power station emits, how the discharges travel to their ultimate destinations and what changes occur.

The question of what the discharges do when they finally come to ground is the subject of a growing research team, which includes two out-stations of the CEGB looking at fresh-water and marine biology, soil science, plant physiology and material science.

These are time-scales far longer than those to which industry is accustomed. But an experiment supported by the CEGB and British Coal is designed to see whether soil can be helped to recover more quickly. The scheme called the Loch Fleet Project, first involved a study of the soil and drainage into the waterway. The loch was devoid of fish life for years.


In the new experiment, after limestone was applied to parts of the catchment area, there was an immediate drop in levels of calcium, acidity and aluminium in the main stream flowing into the loch.





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Further information is available from the: Divisional Public Relations Office, CEGB Research, c/o Marchwood Engineering Laboratories, Marchwood, Southampton SO4 4ZB. Telephone: (0705) 665232.



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POWER RESEARCH/2

FOCUS

Scientists lead £135m battle against pollution

Since the days of Michael Faraday, the generation of electricity has been in the forefront of technology. The esoteric disciplines of thermodynamics, fuel chemistry and metallurgy underpin the basic operation of power stations, ensuring that these gigantic "steam kettles" produce electricity as efficiently as possible.

But, increasingly, scientists involved in power generation have found themselves having to branch out into other areas as well. The use of nuclear fuel to generate electricity has spawned a vast research effort.

Concern over the effect that the by-products of power generation may be having on the environment, such as acid rain, have led to the setting up of research units devoted to studying atmospheric pollution.

The Central Electricity Generating Board's research and development programme, currently worth about £135 million, centres on three large laboratories based in the South of England: the Central Electricity Research Laboratories (CERL) near Leatherhead, Surrey, the Marchwood Engineering Laboratories (MEL) near Southampton, and Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories (BNL) in Gloucestershire.

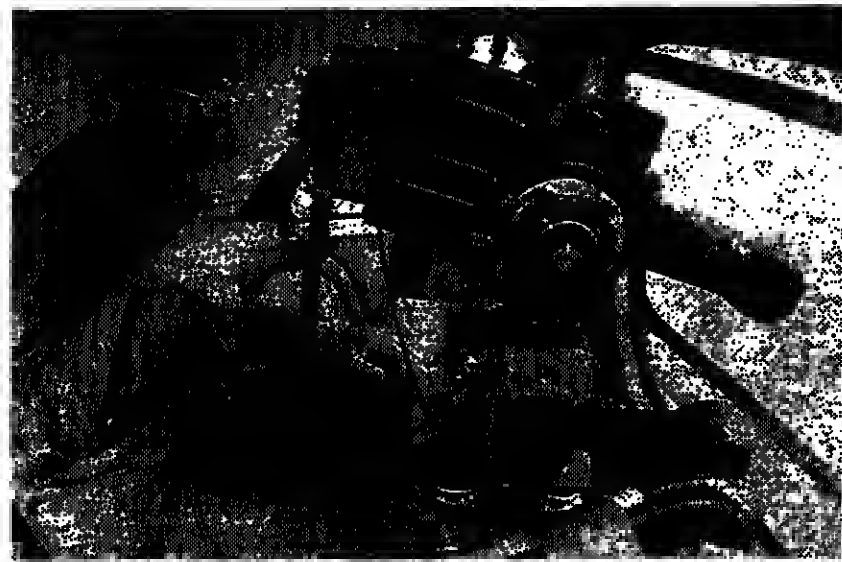
CERL is the largest of the three, and has the widest scientific scope. About 300 research staff work there, the research activities being split into six areas, ranging from developing new instrument gauges to understanding the chemistry of entire lakes and rivers.

Over the last few years CERL has emerged as the major centre for the CEGB's research into the controversial area of the environmental impact of power generation. The Act of Parliament which formed the CEGB in 1957 included a clause ensuring that the environment would be a major concern for the industry.

The CEGB now has more than 100 scientists and engineers working on this area alone, with an annual research budget of £4 million plus. The development of technology to put this anti-pollution research into practice takes another £12 million.

The CEGB's research looks at the possible effects on both land and water. CERL has an out-station in Hampshire, the Fawley Marine Biological Laboratory, which is a centre for research on acid waters. The Freshwater Biology Unit at Ratcliffe on Soar, near Nottingham, also investigates possible effect on rivers.

The Marchwood Engineering Laboratories, opened in 1963, is the centre for the board's research into ways of improving the combustion of coal, and



Aerial view: Dr Ian Funnell examining power lines from a GECB helicopter

taking out the sulphur and oxides of nitrogen claimed to cause acid rain.

About 85 per cent of the electricity in England and Wales is produced by burning coal and oil, so much of the work of the 100 or so scientists at MEL is centred on improving the efficiency of this long-established power production method. Better combustion efficiency means lower levels of pollution.

But much of the engineering behind the safety and reliability claims of the CEGB for its nuclear power stations is carried out at MEL.

For example, to avoid costly unscheduled reactor maintenance, components of reactors must be made as wear-resistant as possible. Long-term testing of such components is carried out at MEL.

It is at the board's Berkeley nuclear laboratories that most of the nuclear research is carried out. A measure of the sophistication of the work done here is that around 140 of the staff have doctorates.

Berkeley's research effort is decided in four main areas: fuels, plant chemistry, structural mechanics and performance and safety.

The board says that BNL is one of the world's leading centres for the study of materials science, especially nuclear metallurgy. Metals inside the core of a reactor are subjected to severe conditions.

Predicting the effects of all this on the lifetime of the reactor is one of the tasks of BNL. It is then able to advise the CEGB on the viability of considerably extending the life of reactors beyond that for which they were designed to operate.

The performance and safety group at BNL carry out detailed theoretical work on, among other things, the fast breeder reactor.

Dr Leslie Mitchell, director of laboratories at the CEGB, has overall responsibility for their day-to-day operation. He is also involved with ensuring the board recruits suitably qualified young graduates and post-graduates.

Dr Mitchell says that the scope of the research work the board can offer attracts considerable numbers of the best graduates to apply each year, with applications exceeding positions by as much as 3 or 4-1.

"One of the attractions for graduates is coming into one of the biggest research organizations in the country," he says. Elsewhere, many young scientists can find themselves working on projects such as new computers or weapons systems that never see the light of day.

The CEGB can offer work of direct application, says Dr Mitchell: "A lot of our people get close to practical problems. For example, our Flying Chemistry Group studies the transport of atmospheric pollutants directly from the air. We also use infra-red cameras to look for faults on electricity transmission lines from helicopters."

Another attraction is that much of the work is perceived to be of global importance. "For example, acid rain is of public interest, so you can work on problems that you can talk about with your friends," says Dr Mitchell.

Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

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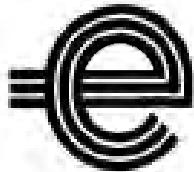
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FOCUS



Temperature control: a research worker measures heat flux in a power station boiler

Quest for savings

Most of the Central Electricity Generating Board's research on conventional coal-fired generating plant has been associated with the drive to larger and yet larger turbine-generators and boilers.

In 1950, the first 60MW steam turbine-generator was commissioned. This rating was to be the standard for the future but almost before AEI (now GEC) had finished building its new Larne factory designed to make 60MW sets on a production line, the standard was changed to 120MW. And size was pushed further in one-off units until the first of the new standard of 500MW was ordered in 1966.

More than 40 of these 500MW sets were built. Now they form the largest tranche of base-load generating plant in Britain, nearly half of the CEGB's generating capacity.

It was claimed that the design was based on experience gained with the 120MW units. But testing troubles with these 500MW sets kept the research laboratories busy for several years.

Hardly had these problems been resolved when the board then introduced a standard 660MW set which has been installed mainly in the second generation (AGC) nuclear stations. Currently the CEGB is specifying a standard 900MW rating for coal-fired stations.

One of the main reasons for increasing the size of plant is

to improve the efficiency of energy conversion from coal to electricity. Much research has therefore been tied up squeezing the last drop of efficiency out of power station plant by increasing the steam temperatures and reducing the exhaust temperature.

In 1950, the average thermal efficiency was about 22 per cent. By 1972, when most of the 500 MW sets had been commissioned, a 10 point rise in efficiency (to 32 per cent) had been achieved. Some 14 years on, in 1986/87, just three extra points had been gained with overall efficiency reaching 35 per cent.

Apart from these diminishing returns, size has brought other problems. For example, economics dictate that large generators should operate 24 hours a day but some of the larger sets are being subjected to frequent shut-down, usually overnight, because of the retirement of the older, smaller, and more flexible units. So methods have had to be developed to minimize mechanical damage during cooling, following shutdown, and reheating for start-up next day.

Other research includes fairly mundane long-term experiments on the strength of materials at high temperatures and high stresses, corrosion and the effect of water droplets on turbine blades.

Although the board's laboratories have built up an

enormous expertise with large units, the design of the furnaces for the future 900MW boilers is said to require "extrapolation beyond our present experience", so a heat transfer computer programme has been developed to predict gas temperatures and heat fluxes in the proposed designs.

The problems of large plant have occupied much of the CEGB's research and development effort but the relentless pursuit of the philosophy of "economies of scale" has served the CEGB well because it has enabled it to be seen to be meeting its statutory obligation to produce electricity as cheaply as possible.

But, because of the diminishing returns, this philosophy has long since ceased to be commercially attractive.

One large consortium considering entering the private generation market believes the optimum economic size of a turbo-generator/boiler unit is 300MW.

Following privatization, the "economies of scale" mentality will probably be replaced by a "least cost" policy.

It is not surprising that most of the companies considering entering the private generation market after privatization are looking at smaller, cheaper plant, such as combined-cycle plant, based on the futuristic development of coal gasification, but have resisted the construction of combined heat

The alternative energy

In theory, all of Britain's electricity supply could come from renewable energy sources

Britain's renewable sources of energy — the wind, tide, solar power, geothermal hot rocks, fuel from refuse and agricultural waste — have been given a long-awaited boost in the first review to be published by the Government, *Renewable Energy in the UK: The Way Forward*.

The report discloses that the Government is prepared to earmark about £20 million a year until the end of the century on research and development into new technologies that could eventually "make a useful and economic contribution", writes Pearce Wright.

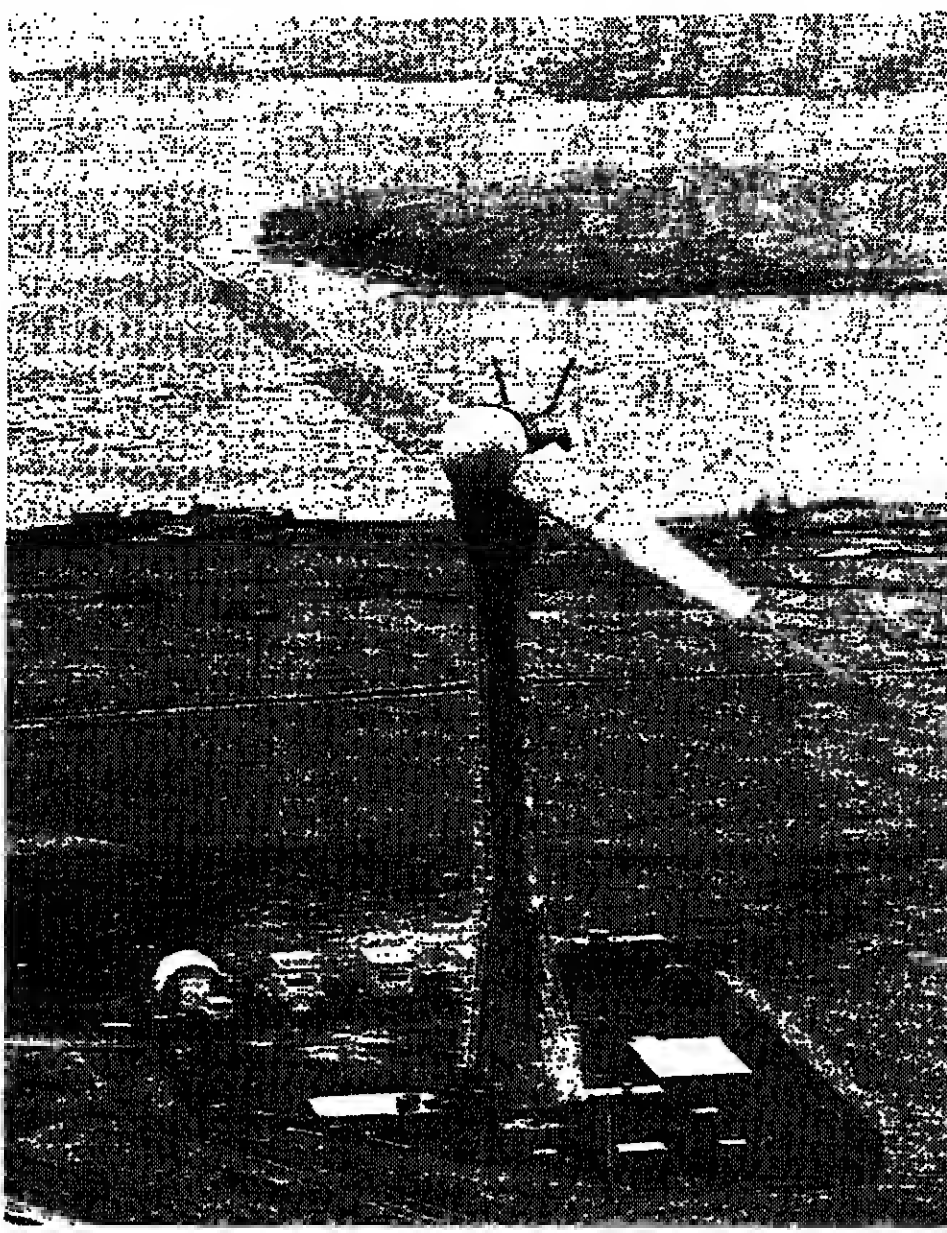
The supporters of renewable energy sources will probably say it is "not a lot". But coming ahead of privatization of the electricity supply industry, the study gives a clear statement of the Government's perception of this source of energy, which should be welcome.

In the White Paper on privatization, the Government offers some protection for supplies of non-fossil fuels. Environmental groups may raise eyebrows to discover that incentives for alternative energy supplies will fall into the same category as incentives for nuclear power.

More important, the Government report recognizes that attempts to develop renewable sources of energy have been thwarted by an unfair market, which has favoured fossil and nuclear fuels.

For instance, under local rating systems, an entrepreneur is charged 10 times more for building some form of power generator than the electricity boards.

Some experts see the renewable energy sources in terms of a north and south European divide. The wind and the tides offer the best prospects in the north and solar energy in the south. In theory, all of Brit-



Wind of power: the Government is planning a £28 million experimental wind-farm

ain's electricity supply could come from renewable sources of energy.

The report, for the Department of Energy, says that one tidal barrage across the River Severn could, within 15 years, generate more than six per cent of the country's demands.

At the other end of the spectrum, individual houses and buildings could help save the equivalent of 1.6 million tonnes of coal a year if architects and builders took more care to exploit "passive" solar energy.

Fuel pellets made from

refuse, straw and other wastes could provide the equivalent of 15 million tonnes of coal a year by the year 2025.

An indication of how the Department of Energy ranks various developments is reflected in recent announcements. They include:

- £28 million for an experimental wind-farm programme with the Central Electricity Generating Board;
- An additional £8 million for research on geothermal hot dry rocks;
- £7 million for feasibility studies of tidal barrages;
- £5 million for design and field studies on passive solar building designs.

Dr Philip Surman, a specialist in alternative energy with the CEGB, says renewable resources have the advantage of usually being at the periphery of the electricity distribution system, where they are most needed.

Dr Surman, project manager for the CEGB's wind power schemes, says his technology received an important stimulus after the oil crisis in 1973, particularly with tax incentives to encourage research and development in the United States. He believes wind power is "shaking down well".

The individual wind generators built by the CEGB as demonstration machines have attracted favourable attention, and public opinion is now being sought about the plan to build three large inland wind parks.

Dr Surman said: "However, wind energy prospers on hilly sites which are also recognized for their good scenery."

Hence, the CEGB is examining the use of off-shore sites for the construction of wind farms.

The vast shallow waters round the British coast could, in theory, more than meet Britain's electricity supply. At the early stage of development, off-shore installations looked too expensive.

But researchers at the CEGB have revised their designs for off-shore operations, and believe economic systems can be developed.

They hope to test the first off-shore machine near Wells-next-the-Sea, in Norfolk.

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Radio 4 signals switch on the power saver

and power plant because the output from these stations would be distributed locally (as would the heat) and out via the board's grid system.

The CEGB takes no interest in the economic use of its product, leaving this research to the electricity boards.

However, demand management to improve the economics of production is seen to come within the CEGB's scope. For example, the development of the radio teleswitch. Used in conjunction with the cheap Economy 7 eight tariff, the teleswitch, which is actuated by signals transmitted over Radio 4, allows the CEGB to switch the large domestic water and storage heating loads at times best suited to the own operations.

Demand management could be extended with very little extra R&D effort. For example, the minute-by-minute marginal costs of electricity production, used to programme the operation of the cheapest stations first, could be supplied to large users in the form of a spot price.

Apart from generating plant, much of the CEGB's research has been devoted to the transmission grid. Again the effect of the "economies of scale" philosophy can be detected and the CEGB's laboratories have had to solve difficult switching problems associated with, for example, very high fault currents.

The fate of the CEGB's laboratories after privatization has still to be decided but the grid company and Big G (the private company made up of 70 per cent of the CEGB's existing power stations) will probably support most of the existing work.

Other private generators will be more cautious and may restrict work to a contract basis only.

John Cogle
Editor, *Electrical Review*

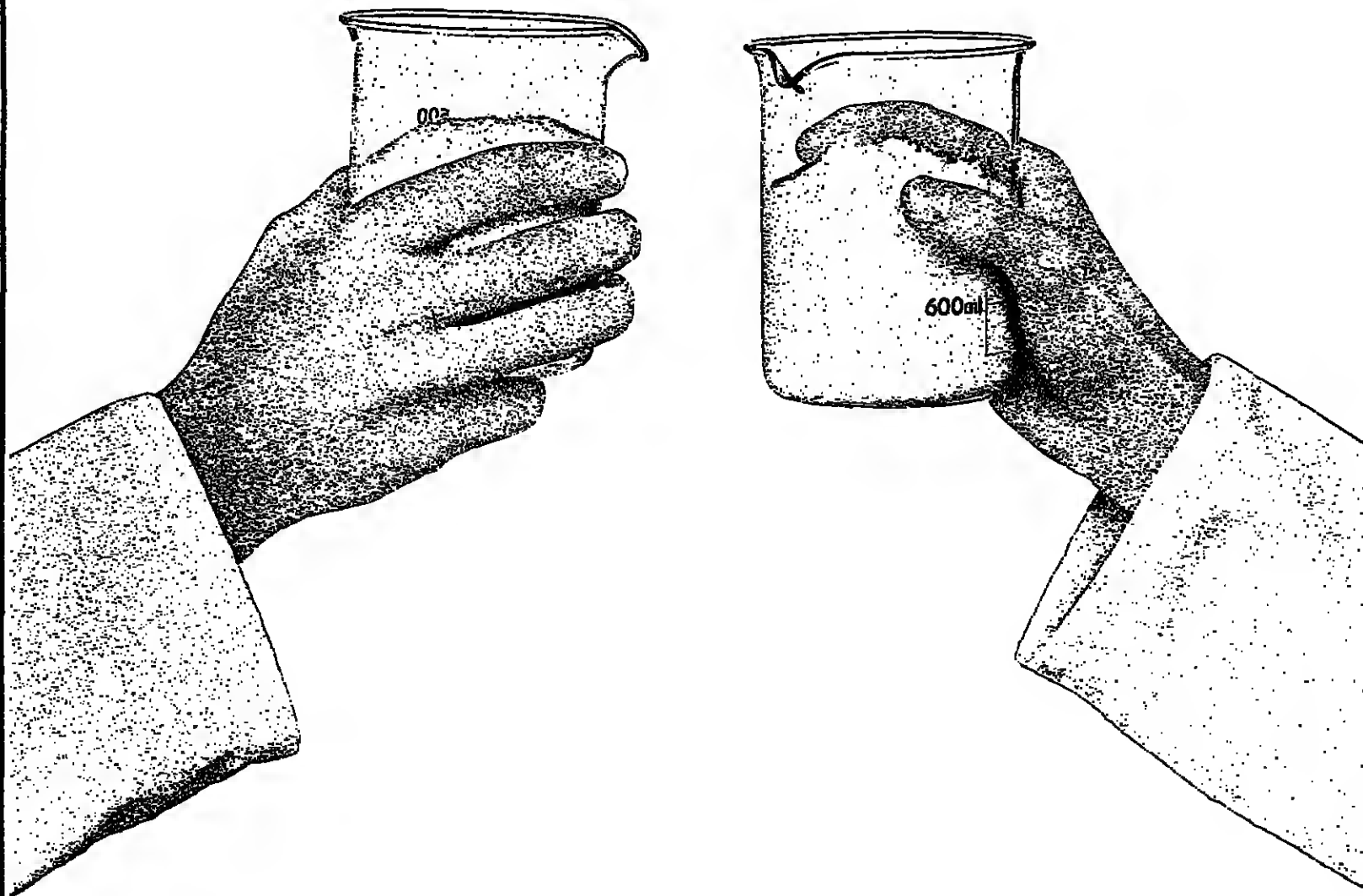
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Going nuclear: how to avoid 'suprise' snags

Though nuclear stations account for only one-fifth of the Central Electricity Generating Board's electrical output, by far the majority of its research and development spending is devoted to them.

This research intensiveness is partly due to the demanding nature of the technology and, of course, the stringent safety requirements. But some of it also stems from the fact that getting Britain's present generation of nuclear plants — the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) — to operate as their designers intended has proved considerably more difficult than anyone anticipated.

Work in support of AGRs accounts for about £40 million of the £125 million spent each year on nuclear research and development. About £33 million comes out of the £70 million research division budget and a further £7 million is spent on engineering development through the

construction department at Barnwood.

In the words of CEGB chairman Lord Marshall, AGR technology has tended to be prone to delivering up "unpleasant surprises".

One example of an unexpected phenomenon was deposition of carbon on fuel elements and boiler tubes, reducing efficiency of heat removal from the core and entailing costly power reductions to keep to the rigorous safety requirements.

But a major research and development effort, including laboratory experiments and development of special techniques for monitoring temperatures on fuel elements deep inside the reactors has succeeded in restoring the lost generation.

Another significant achievement of the AGR research effort has been a progressive increase in the amount of electricity generated from each tonne of fuel placed in the reactor — called "burn-up".

Research of this sort clearly

comes firmly under the heading of "applied", and constitutes by far the bulk of the CEGB's nuclear programme.

Dr Eric Carpenter, the CEGB's research director, Nuclear Plant, explains that in research of this type problems tend to be well defined but "often require urgent resolution, with no established practices to derive a solution".

Success in these circumstances, he believes, depends upon being able to bring in a body of specialists who are not only expert in their subject but are familiar with the design

International research

principles and operational practices and constraints at the nuclear power plants themselves.

"We have to be flexible and responsive to operational needs, and this is reflected in a high degree of 'interrupt-

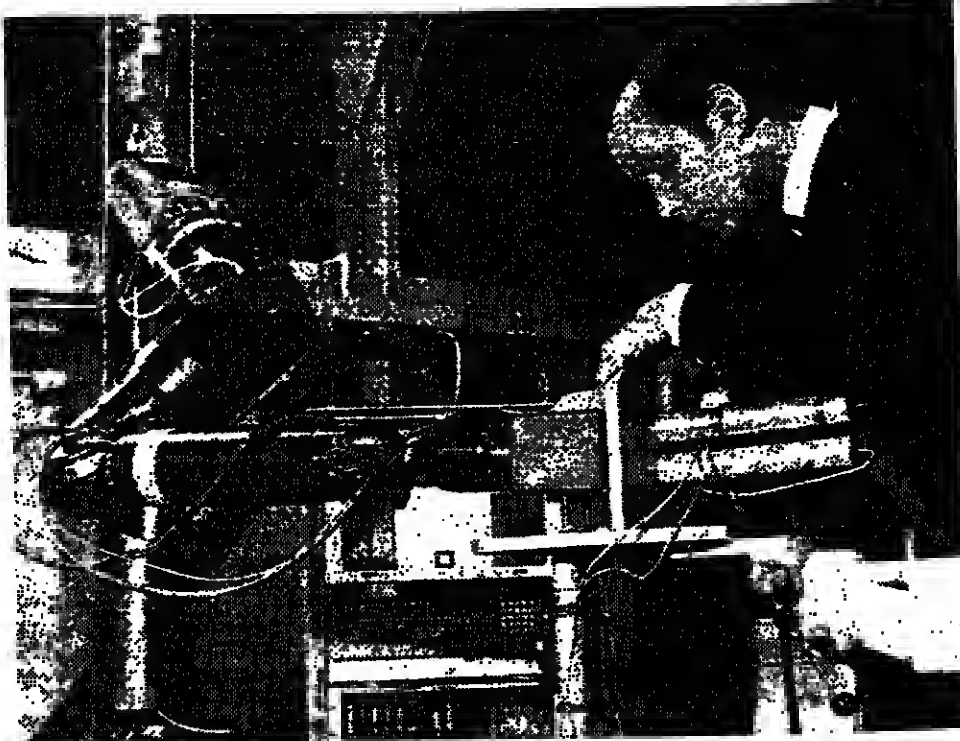
ibility" in the research programme, such that on average some 30 per cent of the work is in response to short term needs which could not have been explicitly planned for."

But with the establishment of the PWR (pressurized water reactor) in Britain — the first of which is under construction at Sizewell — the board is looking forward to a more surprise-free future.

The hope is that the emphasis can be switched from research aimed at solving problems to programmes aimed at avoiding them in the first place — leading eventually to a decline in the R&D costs associated with nuclear power.

After the AGR, research in support of establishing the PWR accounts for the next largest chunk of CEGB nuclear R&D spending, around £36 million of the £125 million total.

At this stage most of the effort is going into "validation of the safety case", to use their jargon. This essentially means providing final fully doc-



Warrior under test: a triumph of welding deep inside the Oldbury Magnox reactor

umented confirmation that Sizewell B meets UK criteria in every detail.

It is intended to be essentially a one-off effort that will stand the board, and its successor, in good stead for Hinkley Point C and subsequent PWRs.

One undeniable advantage of the PWR over Britain's home-grown gas cooled types is that, as the PWR accounts for more than 60 per cent of world nuclear installed capacity, considerable benefit can be drawn from being a member of a worldwide club.

The CEGB is already active in international research programmes, for example on the simplification of pipework and on steam generators (the equivalent of the boilers in a PWR), which have been a particular source of difficulties.

But the CEGB is not just a recipient of knowledge from overseas. It is also in a position to put a good deal back into the world PWR community.

For example the LOMI decontamination process, developed at Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories, is in wide use in a number of countries and the test rigs at Marchwood are unique in the world in their ability to subject PWR valves to the exactly the same ardu-

ous conditions that they would encounter in real reactors. They are attracting interest from potential overseas clients.

Dr Carpenter cites the Marchwood valve rigs as an example of strategic research, where "neither the client departments nor the plant itself has got around to letting us know what work they want".

Another example particularly dear to him is the highly successful CEGB programme of work on sophisticated robotic manipulators that can perform very clever feats of inspection and repair in the innards of reactors, where human access is out of the question.

A recent triumph was the carrying out of welds deep inside the Oldbury Magnox reactor with a remarkable machine called Warrior

(Welding and Repair Robot in Oldbury Reactors) a case where the name was made up after the acronym if ever there was one.

Magnox units, such as Oldbury, were Britain's first generation of reactors. R&D efforts for them are largely directed at dealing with the problems of old age. As well as making enormous strides in remote monitoring inspection and repair, such as Warrior, the research division has improved basic understanding of how and why reactor materials age, in particular the problem of oxidation.

CEGB researchers have also made fundamental contributions to the science of fracture mechanics and defect assessment. The board's formal procedures, known enigmatically as R6, are now widely adopted worldwide.

As to the final de-

commissioning of the reactor cores of Magnox units, the board's researchers believe, on the basis of detailed analysis, that this can be safely delayed for 100 years or so, with a reduction in the overall dose to the public — to say nothing of savings of a billion pounds or more.

This is presumably part of the justification for the board's recent decision to withdraw from the UK Atomic Energy Authority's project to decommission the small prototype AGR at Windscale.

But the prime reason was that the project failed to meet the board's cost-benefit criteria. The techniques being developed at Windscale were not considered sufficiently applicable to the board's own reactors.

But decommissioning is not the only UKAEA programme out of favour with the electricity generators just now.

Lord Marshall, who as well as being chairman of the CEGB is also chairman designate of Big G, the privatized generation company which will take on the CEGB's nuclear interests, has explained recently that shareholders in Big G would be very unlikely to support development of the fast breeder reactor (intended to be the reactor design of the future, using "fast" neutrons to breed new fuel).

He considers such long term projects to be a matter for the government.

Ironically, it was only recently that the CEGB started putting substantial funding into the FBR programme, around £30 million per year.

Another issue raised by privatization is of course the future of the nuclear research function itself. It seems likely that activities bearing on safety, which in practice means a very large proportion, will continue along similar lines.

This is because under the UK licensing system safety is the ultimate responsibility of the utility and the utility alone. A primary responsibility is to help the utility meet this responsibility.

"To do this, the division is continually exploring the boundaries of knowledge in safety related topics," says Dr Carpenter.

James Varley
Editor,
Nuclear Engineering
International

CEGB nuclear research spending (£m)

| PROJECT | RESEARCH | | DEVELOPMENT |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| | Internal | External* | |
| Magnox | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Fuel cycle (waste, transport, etc) | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| AGR | 20 | 13 | 7 |
| PWR | 7 | 17 | 12 |
| FBR | 1 | 0 | 34 |

*External means contracts placed with outside organizations such as the National Nuclear Corporation, UKAEA

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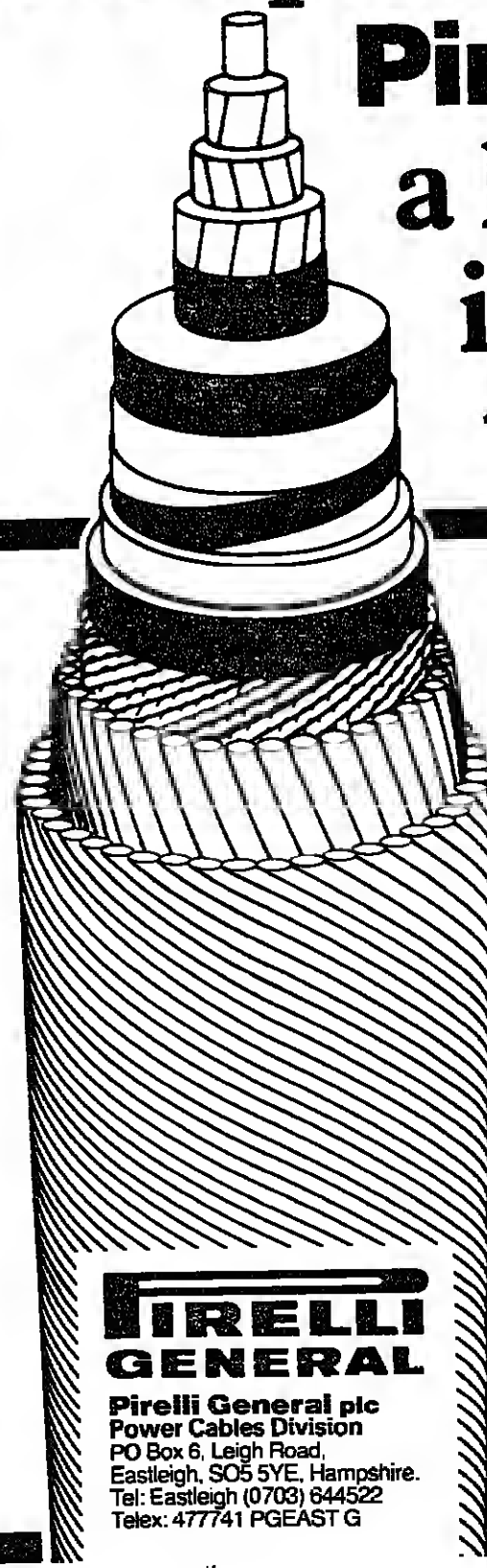
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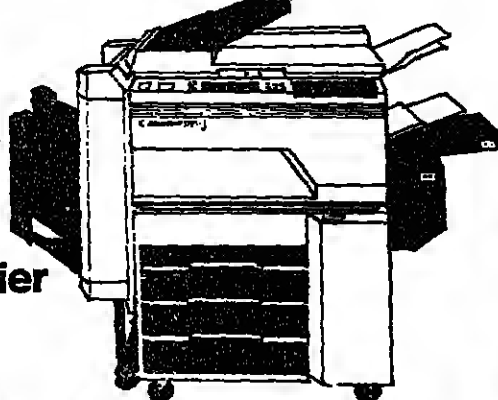
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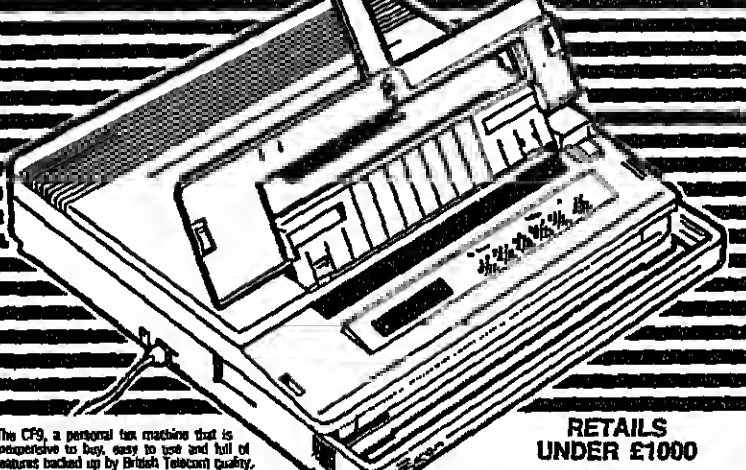


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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Harvesting an extra income

By Sally Watts.

As agriculture becomes an increasingly tougher business, farmers are turning to other ways of supplementing their incomes. One is to cater for business travellers, pulled in by advertisements in business journals or contact with local industries. But catering for holiday-makers is the mainstay.

Between 12,000 and 15,000 farms provide for overnight visitors, ranging from up-market cuisine and en suite facilities to sites for hire and bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Some adapt redundant buildings for self-catering.

Tim Horsfield, a NFU business adviser, urges farm families not to move into catering haphazardly. "Research the market and find something different that meets a need or provides for a certain category of people, then promote it to the right place," he says.

The NFU helps farmers to get on the

right track, but advises: "The idea should be your own; then you will be committed to it."

In some areas, farms band together to attract tourism. The Peak and Moorlands Farm Holiday Group specializes in high-standard cooking (wild boar and gourmet weekends are features) and also do self-catering. Some of the 38 members are taking a Training Commission-funded costing and management course.

Herefordshire Hamper has just started up with member farms offering local produce and traditional county dishes. Farmers' wives have brushed up their technique at Hereford Technical College.

The Six Faces of Shropshire comprises half a dozen farms near Shrewsbury, each with a different speciality, including

Jim and Betty Grundey's catering. They converted their 90ft barn into three-star accommodation with en suite amenities, and also offer a country life programme, farm trail and children's parties.

These groups are backed by the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, which produces booklets to help farmers diversify into hospitality.

"We encourage them to band together, which stimulates ideas, development, training and high standards," says Roy Dart, of ADAS's West Midlands region. "Hospitality is the strength of the farmhouse, and provides money and jobs in areas of high unemployment."

● Contacts: Herefordshire Hamper: Rosemary Price, 0432 73481. Peak and Moorlands Farm Holiday Group: Tina Heathcote, 0298 4219. Six Faces of Shropshire: Betty Grundey, 0939 250391.



Pain-killers: Rita and Michael Adler

Putting his back into a profitable new business

By Peta Levi

Chester-care, a mail-order company which helps disabled people lead more comfortable lives, is the result of its joint-owner, Michael Adler, having hurt his back. A travelling businessman, he wanted a compact folding bedboard to fit into a suitcase, so that soft hotel beds would not be a problem. Eventually, he found one in America which he imports; it weighs 5lb and costs £27.

The difficulties he encountered in finding well-designed equipment to make his life tolerable led him to start Chester-care in 1980. For four years he and his wife, Rita, a heating and ventilating engineer, ran the business from home, but later leased a shop in England's Lane, north London, and will soon need larger premises.

Since 1984 they have taken on seven staff, three part-time, and the turnover has risen to £356,801 last year; they expect a 25 per cent increase this year.

For many years Mr Adler managed a family fashion business, but the West End property was more valuable than the business, so he liquidated the company and sold the property. This provided the £30,000 capital to set up and expand Chester-care, which has a mailing list of more than 50,000 names.

It sells 150 products, ranging from bottle-openers and corsets, to wheelchairs, giant-face playing cards, back-cushions, magnifiers and battery-operated electric socks, to some of their best sellers - high loos and folding walking sticks (250 a week).

To stock their two warehouses at Bristol and Watford the Adlers travel

widely. In Venice they found an easy-to-read thermometer and in Paris a plastic container for washing hair in bed. But Mr Adler says: "We have found it difficult to get British manufacturers to make products to our specification."

He adds: "Everyone is disabled to an extent; the public need educating on how to avoid unnecessary discomfort."

Chester-care has been surprised by the demand; it receives 120 enquiries each week for its 20-page catalogue.

As they expand a major problem is training good quality staff and paying today's high wages. Mrs Adler says: "We work on small margins, but there is scope for growth. Although we are unlikely to make a fortune, it is rewarding work."

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The London Borough of Brent is the most expensive area for rates on warehouse property in Britain, says the latest survey by King & Co of 40 centres throughout the country. Four more London boroughs follow Hackney, which was the most expensive for the previous three years; Newham, Camden and Southwark.

The survey, which appears as a report by Black Horse Relocation, says that London is the loser as a relocation destination because it is too expensive.

King & Co measured the actual rate payable on a typical warehouse property, taking into account the rateable value and rate pondage of the property. It found that an occupier in Brent would be paying £2.71 a sq ft rates on a warehouse, compared with an occupier in Lincoln, at the bottom of the table, who would be paying £0.87p per sq ft, even though that shows a 14 per cent increase on the previous year's figure.

For the first time in four years, a non-London borough moves into the top 10 expensive authorities. Harlow, Essex, moves from 13th to ninth as a result of a 14 per cent increase to £1.80 per sq ft. Glasgow is the only authority among the 40 to reduce its rate burden without central government intervention. The report shows that the south of England,

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"Just when think you're keeping your head above water, you're hit by a tidal wave!"

London rates hit relocation

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outside London, is where most of the London-based companies go, while the North remains stable, gaining some from the South, but losing others to London.

More than three-quarters of corporate relocations in 1987 originated in the South; 55 per cent were companies leaving London. Only five per cent were into London - all from the North.

Companies relocating out of London cited cost savings as the reason twice as often as expansion, modernization or reorganization. They looked for a new site near to, but cheaper, than their London site, or somewhere near any of their other offices.

Site selection was generally based on geography, costs, communications and labour supply, ahead of social factors such as quality of life and house prices. Financial incentives such as government grants ranked lowest among influences.

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DRUGS IN SPORT

Beckett says testing for hormone is impossible

From John Goodbody, Ottawa

Professor Arnold Beckett yesterday said that there was not a "cat in hell's chance of determining the misuse of Human Growth Hormone".

future" for blood-doping, or blood-packing. This is the method by which competitors have a pint of their own blood drawn and refrigerated.

Professor Beckett, a member of the Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), also told The Times that he had been informed that some members of the British team had used HGH before the world athletics championships in Helsinki in 1983.

Several sportsmen, such as a Finnish long-distance runner and the American cycling team at the 1984 Olympic Games, have admitted carrying out this practice, and it is also believed to be widespread in cross-country skiing.

Professor Beckett said it might be possible to carry out analysis for blood-doping, but it would need a battery of tests and would be "horrendously expensive".

HGH, which comes from human cadavers, has been used for the last 25 years to treat children with growth hormone deficiency, but is available on the black market in both Britain and the United States.

But, he pointed out, blood-doping could become superfluous because competitors could use Erythropoietin, a material which produces red blood cells and will soon become commercially available.

Professor Beckett explained that, as the testing for hormone drugs was able to identify substances which had been used by an athlete up to several weeks before an event, the individual could switch to HGH to maintain physical condition before a competition and probably evade detection.

He stressed that the IOC-accredited laboratories were doing a superb job of analysis within the constraints of what they are able to test for. He advocated international legislation to force manufacturers of HGH and Erythropoietin to use "markers", additives that would not alter the chemical properties of a drug but would make it identifiable in testing.

In the build-up to the Seoul Olympics, he identified several other areas of concern. He said there was no reliable test "now or in the foreseeable

Multi-million pound challengers race to capture transatlantic blue riband



Flying Eagle: The American-owned and funded, but British-built, Gentry Eagle undergoing sea trials in the Atlantic off New York earlier this month

Gentry ready to wing across ocean

Two multi-million pound assaults on the transatlantic record are about to begin. The Times revealed last Friday details of the Azimut Atlantic Challenger, an 88-foot, high-tensile aluminium monohull, powered by twin hydrojets, that is the flagship of a £5 million Italian challenge.

The Azimut Challenger, built in the Azimut-Benetti yard at Viareggio on Italy's Liguria coast, arrived in Marbella on Wednesday after the first leg of her passage to New York. There, her British navigator, Dag Pike, will study his five-day advance weather reports from the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, before announcing a start date for the assault on Richard Branson's record of three days, eight hours and 31 minutes set in 1986 in Virgin Atlantic Challenger II.

Also made from aluminium, the Eagle will be powered by two MTU 396 TB94s, sequentially turbocharged marine diesels producing each at 2,100 r.p.m. and also linked to water-jets. She also has a single Avco Lycoming 4,500 hp marine turbine connected to a fixed Arneson surface drive, which can be lifted from the water when not in use and will not be employed full-time during the crossing.

That condition provides the greatest contrast between the rival challenges. Branson was not awarded the blue riband because he refuelled on the way, and it is difficult to see how Gentry can claim anything but the record should he succeed, for he also proposes to refuel.

Gentry, aged 57, from Honolulu, is

The Gentry Eagle's chief designer is

Steve Acteson

MODERN PENTATHLON

New event keeps Britain to the fore

Men and women will compete alongside one another for the first time when Bisley, Bracknell and Windsor share the staging of the 13-nation Grant Thornton champion of champions event on July 10. The innovation, announced yesterday, celebrates the tenth anniversary of the champion of champions event, which sees all five disciplines staged on one day.

HOCKEY

Weekend of decision at Leicester

The Great Britain women's party of 16 for the Olympic Games will be announced after two matches against Canada at Abbey Meads, Leicester, tomorrow and Sunday. Three of the 19 players in the training squad will have to drop out.

JUDO

Adams aims to seal Olympic place

The competition for places in the British Olympic team between the light-middleweights, Neil Adams and Paul Sheals, and the featherweights, Stephen Gawthorpe and Mark Preston, is expected to be settled at the Austrian Open championships, near Linz this weekend.

Olympics, is less concerned with the selection battle than with winning the event outright. Last month he won a silver in a testing tournament in Sardinia, losing only on a penalty.

Gawthorpe, world bronze medal winner in 1985, and Adshad, aged 25, is closer. For Gawthorpe had a poor European championship, although he won the British Open. Mark Preston could also make a late bid for selection if he does well.

GYMNASTICS

Cup's new opportunity

The finals of the first European Cup begin in Florence today, a three-day event that is an innovation of the European Union of Gymnastics designed to increase the competitive opportunities outside the biennial European championships.

feature many gymnasts from Europe's top echelon. However, leading the men's finalists is György Csicsvari, the experienced Hungarian who is ranked ninth in the world, but two young Soviets, Sergei Kharkov and Vladimir Schopochkin, could well surprise their seniors.

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Retail Outlet Lease for Sale. Excellent High Street position, double fronted, 2 floors, low rent £7,500 pa. Asking £75,000 for 14 year lease. West of London. Call 0494 715354 or 0753 885878.

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Plastic Cards from £99 per 1000. V.A.T. Including delivery, postage etc. Tel: 0832 74073. For details.

Distributors & Agents. Established manufacturer requires distributors or agents in Midlands and North to introduce a new range of Dev and Petrol additives to automotive/marine outlets. Tel: 0204 708090. Office hours.

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CRICKET: FINE SPELL BY PRINGLE MAKES THE CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERS STRUGGLE WHILE AT TAUNTON IT IS A DAY OF THREE HUNDREDS

Cultured exhibition takes Waugh past 1,000 runs for June

By John Woodcock

TAUNTON: Glamorgan, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 42 runs ahead of Somerset

Waugh's customary hundred and Roebuck's first of the season raised the batting to unforeseen heights at Taunton yesterday. Together they had added 179 in 43 overs for Somerset's third wicket when, with 40 minutes left, Roebuck declared to improve the chances of a finish today. The reward for that was the immediate dismissal of Glamorgan's opening pair and shortly afterwards of a night-watcher.

It would have seemed hardly possible before the match started or as Glamorgan struggled to 66 for four on the first morning, that the pitch would so belie its extraordinary appearance. In the first five hours yesterday only three wickets fell while 333 runs were being scored.

In the morning even Watkin, who is really on batsman at all (he bowled quite promisingly) was able to help Holmes add 67 for Glamorgan's ninth wicket. Holmes was 53 when Watkin came in: when he went to his hundred 85 minutes later he gave Watkin a well-deserved pat on the back. Holmes had

looked an excellent player; so, in a more studious way, did Roebuck. As for Waugh, his score of 50 was positively brilliant. Roebuck's was his first championship innings since he had his left wrist broken in the nets on May 20. It quite often helps to have a mid-season breather, even an enforced one. On the other hand I suppose if Roebuck had made not one hundred but three or four by now, he just might have caught the selectors' eye. Whether, with his mighty intellect, he could have worked out how to play the West Indian fast bowlers, as he has those who make up the county scene, might just have been thought worth discussing.

After a nasty lifter had accounted for Hardy, and a nice low slip catch for Wyatt, Roebuck and Waugh were soon providing an object lesson to any young on the ground as to how to run between wickets. Waugh, of course, is in prime form — and like that other Somerset batsman, whom he so resembles, Greg Chappell, he is an effortless judge of a run.

In all competitions in June he scored 1,046 runs for Somerset, 750 of them in the

championship at an average of 125. Yesterday's was his sixth hundred of the month, four of them first-class. His style is unorthodox, his method unorthodox, his hitting crisp, his footwork silent.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings
A R Butcher c Marks b Fosse 4
J A Hopkins b Fosse 31
N Morris c Burns b Marks 31
M P Maynard lbw b Fosse 20
R J Sheen run out 10
G C Holmes not out 100
R C O'Connell c Burns b Fosse 17
D J Harrison c Marks b Fosse 17
I C P Meston c Burns b Fosse 17
S L Watson not out
Extras (D 1, N 1, W 1, NB 1) 22
Total (2 wickets dec, 99.2 overs) 333
S R Barwick did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-68, 3-88, 4-66, 5-112, 6-138, 7-141, 8-185.
BOWLING: Jones 14.2-1-48-0; Maltender 20-3-40; Fosse 19-7-40-1; Foster 22-6-72-4; Marks 20-5-48-2; Roebuck 21-1-0-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings
J J E Hardy c Morris b Barwick 12
J E Hardy c Morris b Barwick 112
J G Wyatt c Hopkins b Derrick 9
S R Waugh run out 12
G R Jones c Burns b Marks 12
Total (2 wickets dec, 89.2 overs) 243
R J Barlett, V J Marks, T O Fosse, M A Jones, A N Jones and O J Foster did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-64.
Extras (D 1, N 1, W 1, NB 1) 22.
BOWLING: Barlett 14.2-1-48-0; Maltender 20-3-40; Fosse 19-7-40-1; Foster 22-6-72-4; Marks 20-5-48-2; Roebuck 21-1-0-0.

Second Innings
A R Butcher run out 2
J A Hopkins b Fosse 9
N Morris not out 0
I C P Meston c Hardy b Maltender 21
M P Maynard not out 2
Extras (W 1, NB 1) 2
Total (2 wickets) 36
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-3, 3-3.

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WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 294 (A J Moea 115, A N Hastings 4, 1st 43).
Second Innings
A D Shore not out 30
A J Moea c Hirst b Williamson 30
O A Thomas c Hegg b Akram 3
I G W Humming b Akram 8
P A Smith c Fowler b Manton 3
T A Munton not out 0
Extras (W 2, NB 1) 3
Total (4 wickets) 64
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-32, 3-44, 4-55.
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F E Jany c Gilbert b Manton 46
N F Faragher c Thomas b Merton 13
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W J Williamson c Hampshire b Manton 23
O P Hughes not out 11
Wassam Akram b Smith 22
P J W Abbott lbw b Smith 22
J Semmons lbw b Smith 2
Extras (W 12, W 4, NB 7) 23
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Bonus points: Warwickshire 6, Lancashire 6.
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Familiar test for Yorkshire batsmen after Slack excels
LORDS: Yorkshire, with all their second-innings wickets in hand, are 196 runs behind Middlesex
Yorkshire's batsmen have known no end of being put to the test this season, and it is their lot again. Yesterday, Middlesex painstakingly built up an impregnable lead, chiefly through a century by Wifley Slack and a promising innings of 86 by Jamie Sykes.
This was Slack's first century of the season in what was his fifth championship match since recovering from collapsing at Grace Road in May. It was an innings of shots all round the wicket, lasting in all for 347 minutes. It included 19 fours, one of which was all run and took him to his century.
He had made 99 when rain drove the players off the field for the first of two stoppages which topped 43 overs off the day's play. Slack had nothing if not a phlegmatic temperament, and, upon resumption placed a drive wide of cover as he had been doing all morning. There were plenty of straight drives too, and some delicious glances.
As for the pitch, which has a worn appearance and is well

over to the grandstand side of the square, it played better than on Wednesday. Resuming on 171 for three, Middlesex soon lost Brown and Hutchinson to catches at the wicket — by Robinson rather than Bairdson, who had damaged a finger on his left hand. He will bat today if necessary.
Slack was then joined by Sykes, who befitting someone who has been opening the county's second XI before, was almost sniffling the ball when he played forward defensively. He did have some luck, being dropped at first slip on 100 and at second on 123. He was out on 123, having scored 86 when on 56.
This was his highest championship score. Like others before him, he was helped on his way in first-class cricket by having had the opportunity to play at Fenner's, and made the most of it by trying a century. Aged 23, he also bowls off breaks, or at least he does when Embury is not playing.
The new ball was taken after the second stoppage — once Peter Wight had fished it from the pavilion. Shaw then bowled Sykes. It was an opportune moment for Middlesex to de-

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O A Thomas c Hegg b Akram 3
I G W Humming b Akram 8
P A Smith c Fowler b Manton 3
T A Munton not out 0
Extras (W 2, NB 1) 3
Total (4 wickets) 64
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-32, 3-44, 4-55.
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Second Innings
A D Shore not out 30
A J Moea c Hirst b Williamson 30
O A Thomas c Hegg b Akram 3
I G W Humming b Akram 8
P A Smith c Fowler b Manton 3
T A Munton not out 0
Extras (W 2, NB 1) 3
Total (4 wickets) 64
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-32, 3-44, 4-55.
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F E Jany c Gilbert b Manton 46
N F Faragher c Thomas b Merton 13
A N Hastings b Manton 11
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O P Hughes not out 11
Wassam Akram b Smith 22
P J W Abbott lbw b Smith 22
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Extras (W 12, W 4, NB 7) 23
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TENNIS: MECIR FACES STRUGGLE IN BATTLE AGAINST A HEAVYWEIGHT

Proving that sport is people

Becker in the sort of form that will earn him title again

Simon Barnes

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent



From the moment the draw was made, it has always seemed likely that the winner of the Wimbledon men's singles championship would emerge from the big hitters in the top half...

Lendl has won seven of his 10 previous matches with Becker, but in the only one played on grass (the 1986 Wimbledon final) was beaten to straight sets...

SEMI-FINAL LINE-UP

Table with columns: Year, Tournament, Surface, Round, Score. Lists various tennis tournaments and their results.

Mecir a law unto himself

By Richard Evans

It is easy to exaggerate when trying to point out what makes Miloslav Mecir tick. It is tempting to say that he likes to spend his life fishing and does not care very much about his tennis.

being a tennis player and said he had "disappeared" into the countryside days before. As he had been off the tour for weeks with his back problem...

Ban on India removed

India, who were banned from the 1989 Davis Cup in April by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for failing to play Israel...

valued at the time, with the Indian team having had their lives threatened in their own country if they chose to travel to Israel...

Recalling the Games of '48



Forty years on: Mathias with Mrs Blankers-Koen yesterday (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Champions of a simpler age

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

An Olympic Games can never have been more fittingly awarded than to London in 1948. While other cities on both sides had been shattered, London remained, however broken, as a town of resilience and hope...

Keen and Bob Mathias, who were in London yesterday to publicise Thames Television's 'The Games of '48', to be screened next Wednesday.

ing as fit at 70 as she was at 30, would probably have won more golds if the timetable had allowed. Although training only "half an hour twice a week, and on Sunday in summer, less in winter," she was also world record-holder in the long jump...

POLO

A spirited debut for Giscours

By John Watson

Giscours, the French team, made their 1988 debut in Britain yesterday when they played their first match in the British polo season...

RUGBY LEAGUE

More reinforcements on way to Australia

From Keith Macklin, Sydney

Richard Eyres, the Widnes loose forward, and John Joyner, the experienced utility player from Castleford, last night agreed to join the injury-ravaged Great Britain touring team in Australia...

be fit in time to play in the international series. Alas, the shoulder gave out after only seven minutes of a match at Rockhampton and yesterday's training session he was in such discomfort that the decision to send him home was inevitable...

GOLF

Practice makes perfect for Reid

By John Hennessy

Dale Reid, last year's most successful player in European women's professional golf, has been so troubled by her form this season that she hit 300 shots with her wedge on Wednesday to get her swing in the proper groove.

Her diligence paid immediate dividends yesterday when she recorded a round of 68, five under par, for the 5,846-yard Kingswood course in Surrey. She thus drew alongside the American Sarah De Kraay, aged 23 and fresh out of Indiana University...

Admirable though her score was, she spoke wistfully of words about her setback at the 18th. She stood on the tee at seven under par, partly attributable to her short game which manufactured birdies at the fifth and sixth.

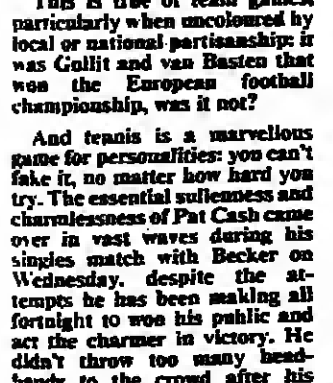
O'Connell is outstanding in trophy victory

By a Special Correspondent

Garth McGimpsey and Eoghan O'Connell gave Great Britain and Ireland victory over Europe in the St. Andrews Trophy match, over the Old course at St Andrews yesterday when they won the two opening singles matches of the afternoon.

Imagine, if you will, that singles had never been invented. That the game of tennis was doubles all the way: men's doubles, women's doubles, and of course, the parties in between, mixed doubles. The delights of mixed doubles, that constant worrying about the curative sinners walkovers of the women's singles, and the inevitable progress of the various Bellamy-designated crash-bang-walloper of the men's singles, we gave all the space and the television coverage to the four-handed battles.

For the best of doubles is quite unbelievable: those ridiculous ratiapian, ratiapian volleys, the impossible retrieves that point after point seem lost causes into victory. If you want a feast of racket-play and athleticism, then doubles, of either sex - or indeed, both - is the game.



Becker: power personified

about sport at all, or at least, not mostly. It is about personalities. What fascinates us most about sport is the way stress, the stresses of striving, of victory and of defeat, affects people.

It is personality that packs them in at Wimbledon: the personalities that express themselves in singles. It is only in singles that the players stand before us stripped of the comfortable clothing of team-spirit, thrown back on their own reserves, naked. You can do all you can to blame line-judges and crowd distractions, but each crowd knows in his heart there is only one person to blame for every defeat.

WIMBLEDON RESULTS

Seeded players in capitals

Women's singles

Winner: 1745-200 Runners-up: 1745-250 Holder: Miss M Navratilova (USA)

Women's doubles

Winner: 1745-200 Runners-up: 1745-250 Holders: C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) and H Sukova (CZ)

Men's singles

Quarter-final I LENDL (CZ) bt S MAYOTTE (US), 7-6, 6-3.

Men's doubles

Third round K EVERHARDT (NZ) and J C KRIEK (US) bt E Jelen and P Kuhnhan (WG), 2-6, 6-2, 7-5, 7-6.

Deehan transfer

Manchester City yesterday completed the signing of John Deehan, from Ipswich Town. The former Norwich City player, aged 30, will have his fee determined by a tribunal.

Mixed doubles

Winner: 1745-200 Runners-up: 1745-250 Holders: J Bates and Miss J Durie (GB)

Third round

D CAHILL and N PROVIS (Aus) bt P ANNACONE and B NAGELSEN (US), 6-3, 5-7, 6-0.

KEY TO COUNTRIES

Arg: Argentina; Aus: Australia; Bah: Bahrain; Bel: Belgium; Bra: Brazil; Bul: Bulgaria; Can: Canada; Cas: Czechoslovakia; Den: Denmark; Fin: Finland; Ger: Germany; Gre: Greece; Hong: Hong Kong; Ind: India; Ita: Italy; Mex: Mexico; Neth: Netherlands; NZ: New Zealand; Pol: Poland; Por: Portugal; Rus: Russia; Scot: Scotland; Swe: Sweden; Swi: Switzerland; US: United States; USSR: Soviet Union; W: West Germany; Yug: Yugoslavia.

WIMBLEDON TV

TENNIS: BBC1 1.50 p.m. Highlights 10.20 p.m. BBC2 4.5 p.m. WEATHER: Starting cloudy with outbreaks of rain; turning dry with sunny intervals and occasional showers in the early afternoon.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

EAST BERLIN: IAAF World grand prix meeting. Men: 100m: 1. R de Silve (BR), 10.32sec; 200m: 2.1. R de Silve (BR), 22.15sec; 400m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 49.58sec; 800m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 1:59.80min; 1500m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 4:10.10min; 2000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 6:38.10min; 3000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 10:07.10min; 4000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 14:50.10min; 5000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 20:07.10min; 6000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 26:07.10min; 7000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 32:07.10min; 8000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 38:07.10min; 9000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 44:07.10min; 10000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 50:07.10min; 11000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 56:07.10min; 12000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 62:07.10min; 13000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 68:07.10min; 14000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 74:07.10min; 15000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 80:07.10min; 16000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 86:07.10min; 17000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 92:07.10min; 18000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 98:07.10min; 19000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 104:07.10min; 20000m: 1. S. Schuster (FR), 110:07.10min.

CRICKET

SCHOOLS MATCHES: 'A' grade: 221. Sussex Maritons 186-7; 'B' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'C' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'D' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'E' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'F' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'G' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'H' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'I' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'J' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'K' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'L' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'M' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'N' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'O' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'P' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'Q' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'R' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'S' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'T' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'U' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'V' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'W' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'X' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'Y' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7; 'Z' grade: 100. Maritons 186-7.

BASEBALL

NORTH AMERICA: National League: Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 3; Cincinnati 3, San Francisco 2; Atlanta Braves 2, New York Mets 1; Pittsburgh Pirates 2, Los Angeles Dodgers 1; Houston Astros 2, Chicago White Sox 1; Kansas City Royals 3, Cleveland Indians 2; Oakland Athletics 2, Seattle Mariners 1; California Angels 2, Minnesota Twins 1.

BOXING

WARRIOR: European super-middleweight championship. Peter Jackson (W, Italy) bt Errol Spence (W, USA), 11th.

BASEBALL

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LOVE ALL advertisement for Lean Cuisine. Includes image of a woman holding a tennis racket and text: 'You'll love Findus Lean Cuisine, today's tastiest way to healthier eating. This wide and delicious variety of low-fat dishes features in our free 14-Day Lean Plan. For your copy write to: Findus Lean Cuisine, Dept. WP, P.O. Box 2, Croydon CR9 3TN.'

As you were as Graf meets Navratilova

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent



Simon Barnes and results, page 41

Sieff Graf will play Martina Navratilova in the Wimbledon women's singles final for the second consecutive year. Yesterday Navratilova took two hours and nine minutes to beat Chris Evert, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, but Graf needed only 59 minutes to defeat Pam Shriver, 6-1, 6-2.

Navratilova has already won the title eight times, a record she shares with Helen Wills Moody. She wants to have that record to herself by winning the title again tomorrow. There was a time yesterday when it seemed that she might have to be content with the role of losing semi-finalist.

Navratilova played a first set that was regal in its authority. She is probably the most gifted grass-court player the women's game has ever known, and all her best qualities were in evidence. She even had the confidence and ball control to take on Evert in the kind of base-line rallies at which Evert excels. Essentially, though, Navratilova's advantage was physical.

Then she was swiftly reminded that the centre court at Wimbledon has become something of a private empire for Navratilova. There did not seem to be much Evert could do about it. She matched Navratilova only in ground

Navratilova hit a wild smash and was then off the mark with a forehand. So to a third set in which an already exciting and highly-skilled match became even better. Navratilova achieved a 3-1 lead, but Evert struck back with a series of passing shots that buzzed past Navratilova like arrows. Evert's anticipation and footwork and racket control were admirable.

When Evert was serving at 4-5 they had a marvellous game in which Navratilova had a match point. Navratilova charged to the net, but Evert frustrated her with a superb forehand passing shot down the line. In the next game, Navratilova easily held her service. That left Evert serving at 5-6, and she swiftly went 0-40 down - three more match points. Evert saved one with a bold backhand that hit the line and forced an error. Navratilova missed the second chance by mis-hitting an awkward smash.

Then came a disappointing and slightly controversial finish. Evert played a cross-court forehand that clipped the net cord, beat Navratilova, and seemed to make contact with the sideline. But Navratilova instantly turned to glare at the line judge, who slowly raised an arm to signal that Evert's shot was out. There were boos

and a slow handclap. It was certainly a sad finish to what had turned into a thrilling match.

Graf works harder in practice than she had yesterday against Shriver, who at least took one more game from her than was the case in their semi-final last year. Graf hit harder and deeper, moved faster, and played at an altogether higher level. She hit a flashing stream of winners. Her reactions were quicker and she seemed to regard most of Shriver's shots as invitations to a party.

Shriver did her best, whenever she happened to be in the same neighbourhood as the ball. But going to the net, which is her custom, was more hazardous than usual because she risked being perforated.

Watching this match, after that between Navratilova and Evert, was rather like drifting gently into harbour after enduring a storm at sea. The soft sunlight of evening deserved a more glittering spectacle than Shriver could produce.

Gomer on course

Sara Gomer, the British No. 3 from Torquay, remained on course to retain the women's Plate at Wimbledon yesterday by beating Eva Pfaff of West Germany, 6-1 6-2 to reach the semi-finals.



Ever-popular: Evert's defeat saw the crowd once more on her side (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Familiar frailties exposed

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD (England won toss; West Indies with all first-innings wickets standing, are 131 runs behind England) England have suffered another manner of bad experiences against the West Indian pace attack but seldom has the flag of surrender been raised with quite such embarrassing haste as on this opening day of the third Cornhill Test match. They were dismissed, inside 61 overs, for 135. Only three times, in 52 home Tests against this opposition, have they been bowled out for fewer.

By mid-afternoon the fund of pre-match English optimism had been thoroughly exhausted. The strongest batting side available had been humiliated, all six specialists gone for an aggregate of 69 runs. Worse still, at least four of the six were guilty of careless contributions to their own downfall.

Gooch, Gower and Lamb went out to loose strokes against balls they could easily have left alone. Gattling, resurrecting a half forgotten nightmare, was leg before to one he did leave alone. If you had asked each of the four to demonstrate their most irritating frailty, they could hardly have done so more faithfully.

The most acutely depressing aspect was that everything had been going well - until the first ball was bowled. After a lengthy and often animated mid-pitch conference involving all five selectors, England had summoned the sense and courage to name a balanced side, including two spinners. Childs making his debut. When Emburey then won the toss, the opportunity was there to build a score and apply pressure on the West Indian batting.

The theory was sound enough. In practice, it was a disaster. Conditions were not, as it were, as friendly for batting as England would have hoped. Perhaps the pitch had sweated under the tarpaulins; certainly, it allowed the seamers, Marshall in particular, some extravagant sideways movement. This, however, cannot justify what followed.

Moxon had been preferred to Broad, which was mildly astonishing after the way in which the captain and manager had argued against a reluctant chairman of selectors for his retention in the party. The Yorkshireman, however, had resisted bravely at Lord's and he hinted at something similar during the early overs here. But he had

still not scored, after 33 minutes, when Marshall pierced an imperfect forward push.

Gattling entered to an ovation expressive of widespread sympathy for the martyr. The crowd, disappointingly no more than 10,000, would have loved nothing more than a familiarly pugnacious Gattling innings. Instead, they got a familiarly awful Gattling dismissal.

Marshall all but bowled him second ball off the inside edge. Two balls later, producing another off-cutter, he was grateful to find the former captain shouldering arms. The appeal was made on banded knees and umpire Constant's finger was raised with the air of one who has seen it all before.

Gattling once considered that the Lord's Test of 1984.

TV TIMES: BBC1 10.50 a.m.-1 p.m. BBC2 12.45-1.05, 1.25 p.m. Highlights 12.05 a.m. (from 10.00)

WEATHER: Sporing cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning drier with sunny intervals and occasional showers.

when he was twice out in this fashion to Marshall, was the low point of his career. Yesterday's dismissal, coming on top of all his recent troubles, may prompt a rethink. He has now scored only 254 runs in 16 innings against the West Indies, a statistic to make a proud man wince.

Gower was next to depart and, wouldn't you know it, he fell to that instinctive flick at a ball leaving him outside off stump. Harper, included when Haynes was declared unfit, took the catch at third slip.

Manful defiance followed from Gooch and Lamb to the two men whose records against this opposition stand up to the closest scrutiny. With lunch in sight as a temporary sanctuary, however, Gooch inexplicably drove, firm-footed, at a wide one from Benjamin and was caught behind.

England were now 56 for four but Capel is so well versed in crisis he might have mistaken this for a good start. On his debut, against Pakistan last summer, he came in at 31 for five; in his second Test at Lahore in November, it was 44 for four in the first innings and 66 for five in the second. This time, the hero's role eluded him. Eight overs of correct defence came to nothing when Benjamin beat him with a violent breakback.

Shortly before the rain arrived at 3 p.m. Lamb perished to a square cut, the shot he



Irresistible appeal: Marshall greets Gattling's misjudgement which cost him his wicket

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

England won toss. ENGLAND First Innings. G A Gooch c Dujon b Benjamin 27, M A Moxon b Marshall 0, M W Gattling lbw b Marshall 0, G O Gower c Harper b Walsh 9, A L Lamb c Greenidge b Ambrose 33, D J Capel b Benjamin 32, P R Downton c Greenidge b Walsh 24, J E Emburey c Dujon b Walsh 1, P J DeFreitas c Greenidge b Ambrose 15, G R Dilley c Harper b Walsh 14, J H Childs not out 2, Extras (lb 4, nb 6) 10, Total (60.2 overs) 135.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-14, 3-33, 4-55, 5-61, 6-64, 7-68, 8-113, 9-123. BOWLING: Marshall 12-5-19-2, Ambrose 17-5-35-2 (nb 1); Walsh 18-2-4-6-4 (nb 5); Benjamin 13-4-31-2.

WEST INDIES First Innings. C G Greenidge not out 4, R B Richardson not out 0, Extras 4, Total (3 overs) 4.

*V A Richards, C L Hooper, A L Logie, P J Dujon, R A Harper, M D Marshall, M K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: O'Leary 2-1-4-0; Emburey 1-1-0-0. Umpires: D J Constant and N T Pilews.

Bruno confused by Tyson's announcement

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Bruno was pondering his future yesterday after reports of Mike Tyson's retirement following a dispute with his manager, Bill Cayton. His bout with the world heavyweight champion at Wembley Stadium on September 3 will be called off if the reports are true and Tyson does not change his mind.

"I am as confused as anybody else," Bruno said at Heathrow after returning from Atlantic City, where he had been watching Tyson defend successfully against Michael Spinks. "I don't know what's happening," he said. "It's very disappointing. One minute I'm going to fight Tyson, the next it's all off. I'm just going to keep training, stay ready and see what happens."

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, said: "I cannot believe Tyson will retire. Give it another seven days and I think we will see a change." Lawless's advice seemed sensible. A lot can happen in seven days in the life of a "retired" undisputed world champion.

Boxing circles remain sceptical. Simon Block, of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "As far as we are concerned, Tyson is still champion. I am afraid I'm a bit cynical when it comes to

McNulty's 62 is a pre-Lytham boost

From Mitchell Plaits, Golf Correspondent, Monte Carlo

Mark McNulty seized the initiative in the Monte Carlo Open when he put together a spectacular second round of 62, seven under par, on the Mont Aget course here yesterday.

McNulty, who has a half-way aggregate of 128, has developed into one of the finest golfers on the PGA European tour. He is such a consistent striker of the ball that even on this undulating course he has no hesitation in employing his driver at all but the short holes.

Yet the paradox is that McNulty, now aged 34, regards par as a blessing in disguise. He said: "Bobby Locke once told me always to play full par. I have always been a patient man but I have had to curb my natural aggress-

END COLUMN

Facility riddle thrown open

By Douglas Broom and Peter Ball

Confusion last night surrounded Government plans for the running of local council sports and leisure facilities. Is it going to insist on full privatization, with private contractors in control, or is it asking only that local authorities allow private companies to tender for management?

There were assertions by Government sources that there was no question of fresh privatization, and the Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is expected to make a Commons announcement about the plans, either today or early next week, in an attempt to halt speculation.

Senior sources said emphatically last night that councils would be required only to seek tenders from private firms for providing staff to physically operate leisure facilities. There was no question of wholesale privatization and councils would retain control of pricing and admission policies. There was also no question of handing public parks over to private contractors.

But the official assurances were greeted with scepticism by sports bodies, local government associations and trade union leaders.

News that came 'out of the blue'

Peter Lawson, the general secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, said the news that an announcement was imminent was "out of the blue. We understood that consultation was continuing, but it seems it is over and the Government is galloping ahead."

"It is a body blow to British sport in this Olympic year," Lawson continued. "Harold Macmillan once described privatization as selling off the family silver. This policy is putting the family future at risk."

"I called it a body blow, but this is more like the final oppurt. They are already selling off school fields and allowing competitive sport to be run down in schools."

The Sports Council's response was more guarded, even giving the news a cautious welcome. Its statement emphasized that the council "strongly endorses the need to maximize efficiency" in the running of the centres, with the important qualification that local authorities retained the right to control accessibility and pricing for children and underprivileged groups.

Of the individual sports, swimming in particular is concerned at the possible implications, seeing both the teaching of swimming and the needs of Olympic swimmers for access to pools at risk.

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) will be presenting a parliamentary petition at Westminster this morning; it will be led by a group stretching across the whole swimming spectrum, from Duncan Goodhew, the former Olympic champion, to a four-year-old non-swimmer.

Closure of pools taking its toll

ASA clubs teach 250,000 people a year to swim, and all the clubs have waiting lists for the courses. Already, the closure of pools is taking its toll. "We are teaching fewer people to swim than ever before," Hamilton Bland, of the ASA, said. "It is a vital activity - drowning is the third most frequent cause of death."

The average 25-metre pool loses £159,000 a year. To be made more attractive, wave machines, slides, and chutes are a natural development for a private company, but that would cut across teaching and serious swimming.

There was particular concern about the effect of the proposals on education with the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Fred Jarvis, warning that schools could be excluded from swimming pools and sports centres.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said the plans would result in the run-down of sports and leisure facilities in less prosperous or thinly populated areas.

"It's a recipe for increased vandalism and rising tensions in inner city areas as the young jobless will be denied access to what will become elitist centres for the well-off," he said.

Hunter stalks Games place

From Jeany MacArthur, Aachen

Janet Hunter and Everest Lisnamarrow, one of eight partnerships on Britain's Olympic show-jumping short-list, face their toughest trial in today's Nations' Cup event, in which they have been picked to go second for the British team.

The three other members of the team are Nick Skelton (Apollon), Malcolm Pyrah (Towlands Anglezarke), and David Broome (Queensway Countryman). These three riders are near certainties for an Olympic team place providing their horses retain their form.

Britain hopeful

Great Britain maintained their hopes of reaching the final round of the Olympic basketball qualifying tournament in Rotterdam next week by overwhelming the Republic of Ireland 106-69 last night.

Steve Bucknall (22 points) was Britain's top scorer for the second successive game.

Sonntag dies

Wellington (AFP) - New Zealand's oldest former Rugby Union player, Charlie Sonntag, died in Dunedin yesterday, aged 94.

Success again

The Cambridge sailing team won the annual University team racing event for the fourth successive year yesterday, after Oxford threw away the chance to draw level in the best-of-seven series at Cowes, as one of their number hit a mark and Cambridge took the event 4-2.

Dublin date

The Republic of Ireland will play England in a football exhibition match in Dublin next May.

Back on track

Derek Redmond, the UK 400 metres record-holder, has recovered from a strained hamstring and will have his first big race of the season in Oslo tomorrow.

Shearn chosen

Nicola Shearn, the ASA national champion, will represent Great Britain in the synchronized swimming solo event at the Seoul Olympics.

Arch show the Gorbals open... Various advertisements and notices on the right margin.